

In a single sentence: This is the apology of a group or class and as such is of real value to the historian, but it is far from being a dispassionate or balanced view of the country.

W. H. CALCOTT.

Columbia, South Carolina.

The Mercurio Volante of Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora. An Account of the First Expedition of Don Diego de Vargas into New Mexico in 1692. Translated, with Introduction and Notes by IRVING ALBERT LEONARD, Ph.D. University of California. The Quivira Society, Los Angeles, 1932.

The serious study of Southwestern colonial history is still in its infancy. Realizing the richness of available unpublished materials bearing on the origin of the region, a group of scholars in 1929 organized the Quivira Society, the purpose of which was to present from time to time significant documents, chiefly translations from the Spanish language, illustrating the history of the Southwest. The present volume, the third in the Quivira Series, is an excellent translation of the Sigüenza y Góngora *Mercurio Volante*, a printed pamphlet concerning the first expedition of Vargas in the reconquest of New Mexico in 1692. With the exception of the studies of the Pueblo revolt and attempts at reconquest by Professor Hackett, and the defective translation of the present pamphlet by Mr. Prince, and fragments of the Vargas diaries by Mr. Twitchell, nothing has been done on the subject of the reconquest. Dr. Leonard's study in this respect stands as a basic contribution to the study of one of the most striking culture conflicts in the Southwest. The editing of the *Mercurio Volante*, from an original in the John Carter Brown Library, has been done with great care. For his materials to prepare the setting, Professor Leonard searched the archives of Seville and Mexico City and had access to private libraries of distinguished Mexican families. In one of the latter he had the good fortune to encounter another original pamphlet.

Dr. Leonard's *Introduction* to the document is written in a delightfully lucid style. For years he has been publishing monographic studies of this great Mexican mathematician, so that he speaks with authority on a figure not only significant in the cultural history of Hispanic America, but one who, in addition to this contribution to

New Mexico, took an important part in Spanish efforts to locate the La Salle colony in Texas and waged an enlightened intellectual battle with Father Kino. The whole Southwest has felt the imprint of Sigüenza's mind.

The details Professor Leonard has gathered on the history of Mexican pamphlet printing before the advent of the regularly appearing periodicals of the early eighteenth century are intriguing. The effect of his researches here is to establish that the *Mercurio Volante* belonged to the earlier type of publication. But of greater significance to scholars is that his study of these prolifically issued yet fugitive, primitive newspapers, lays bare a wholly unsuspected body of historical data. The Quivira Society is to be congratulated upon the publication of this study. Its efforts to make available the basic materials in western origins, such as the *Mercurio Volante* represents, are contributing effectively to bridge the chasm between Coronado and Pike.

The volume reproduces many excellent views of the principal pueblos that figure in Vargas's account. Of no little interest, too, is a reproduction of the rare Fer map of California and New Mexico, the original of which Mr. H. R. Wagner states in a note might possibly have come from Sigüenza's hand.

ALFRED BARNABY THOMAS.

University of Oklahoma,
Norman.

The Odyssey of Cabeza de Vaca. By MORRIS BISHOP. (New York: The Century Company, 1933. Pp. vii, 306. \$3.00.)

Although the suggestive title of this book is not original with the author (for it was used by Opisso in his article in *Hojos Seluta*, May, 1927) it is appropriately descriptive. The life of the hero of the volume is so interesting that the wonder is that the muse of History has so long neglected him. Alvar Núñez was a conquistador of the first rank, endowed with all the great qualities of persistence, daring, and resourcefulness but with a humanitarian spirit unfamiliar in most members of that indomitable class to which the American reading public is being gradually introduced.

Professor Bishop has produced a living being, who not only won renown as a great Spanish marathon walker but as an administrator