

tive, and beautifully illustrated with many rare pictures. The majority of material from new sources is of a personal nature such as etiquette at court (even menus of royal meals) and candid observations concerning individuals involved in the short empire. These are interesting additions to the literature in this field. The author incorporates numerous excerpts of fascinating and rare letters. The major disappointment to the serious historian is that there are so few footnotes indicating the sources. It is clear, however, that M. Castelot has examined a wide variety of documents and he is certainly worthy of being granted the *Prix du Cercle de l'Union* in 1978 for this informative volume.

Texas A&M University

SHIRLEY J. BLACK

Samuel H. Walker's Account of the Mier Expedition. Edited by MARILYN MCADAMS SIBLEY. Austin, 1978. The Texas State Historical Association. Illustrations. Map. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 110. Cloth.

This slim, attractive volume sheds no new light upon the circumstances and events surrounding the famous Mier expedition of 1842. However, the work is an excellent example of the good, solid scholarship which can be applied to diaries and/or personal accounts dealing with events such as the Mier expedition. As Mrs. Sibley acknowledges, Walker is better known for his advocacy of the early Colt revolvers, for his career in the Texas Rangers, and for his participation and death in the Mexican War than for his role in the Mier expedition. Nevertheless, her treatment of Walker's account of this episode in 1842-1843 reveals a new dimension of Walker's character.

Born in Maryland, Walker abandoned the life of a carpenter's apprentice in the 1830s to participate in the Florida Indian wars, then made his way in 1842 to Texas. Walker found the adventure he sought by joining Texas volunteers defending their disputed southern borders against Mexican incursions in the San Antonio area. While serving with the Somervell expedition in the lower Rio Grande region, Walker joined a rebellious group of men who, defying Somervell's orders to withdraw to their homes, attacked the Mexican town of Mier. The assault was a disaster, and the bulk of the Texan force was captured, to be marched southward in two groups to Mexico City. As the editor indicates, "The affair produced martyrs but little in the way of heroes" (p. 9).

Walker was in the group of prisoners marched from Mier to Mexico City through Monterrey and San Luis Potosí. Thus it was that he participated in the famous Salado escape effort, the failure of which resulted

in the summary execution of seventeen of the prisoners who were selected by the random drawing of black beans from a water jug. As a survivor of the draw, Walker gives a graphic, interesting description of this event.

In the telling of his subsequent period of imprisonment in Tacubaya, and of his successful escape from Mexico, Walker demonstrates a rather attractive narrative style which Mrs. Sibley has left virtually intact. In the editor's observation, Walker's journal gives little new information; rather, "it tells a great deal about the simple fighting man who wrote it and whose legend is better known than he" (p. 19). This publication will be welcomed by students of Texas history and by those interested in the panorama of Texan-Mexican and Mexican-United States relations during the 1830s and 1840s. The editor has produced a commendable work. Her introductory remarks are most helpful, her notes are abundant, and her bibliography is extensive. In short, Mrs. Sibley has enabled Samuel H. Walker's story to be told effectively in his own words while at the same time delivering a work of solid scholarship.

Delta State University

CURT LAMAR

RELATED TOPICS

Metropolitan Latin America: The Challenge and the Response. Edited by WAYNE A. CORNELIUS and ROBERT V. KEMPER. Beverly Hills, 1978. Sage Publications. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 361. Cloth. \$18.50. Paper. \$7.95.

The cities of Latin America are challenged with finding ways to deal effectively with the now familiar litany of problems created by rapid urban growth. Because the response does not even come close to matching the challenge, editor Cornelius, in a useful introduction that also summarizes the nine papers, is obliged to be pessimistic about the future of Latin American cities.

The intent of the book is to provide comprehensive case studies of a broad range of cities: Guadalajara, Mexico City, Bogotá, Medellín, Port-au-Prince, Guayaquil, Lima, Caracas, and Rio de Janeiro. Cornelius justifies the selection process citing such factors as diversity and the severity