

**INNOCENT III., LES ROYAUTES VASSALES DU SAINT-SIEGE.**

Par Achille Luchaire, Membre de L'Institute. Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie., 1908. Pages 279.

Three volumes of this great work have already been reviewed in these columns. The general characteristics of the whole were then set forth. This volume continues and completes the biography on the same high plane of historical and literary excellence attained in the former volumes. In this volume the author treats of Innocent III. and the vassal kingdoms of the Holy See. There are four divisions of the subject. Chapter I. is devoted to the states of the Spanish peninsula, Chapter II. to the Magyars and the Slavs, among whom Innocent played a great role. The next two chapters treat of the Catholic Church in England, Chapter III. dealing with the Church of England and Richard Cœur de Lion, and Chapter IV. with John Lackland and the Papacy. In the final chapter the author takes up the history of the relation between Innocent and his own country in the person of the great Philip Augustus. The rich historical materials are handled in a masterful way from both the historic and literary standpoints, and the work as a whole will undoubtedly take its place among the great biographies.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

**SOUTH AMERICA ON THE EVE OF EMANCIPATION.**

**The Southern Spanish Colonies in the Last Half-Century of Their Dependence.**

By Bernard Moses, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor in the University of California. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1908.

We are poorly informed concerning the history of our sister republics of South America. They are almost a *terra incognita*. We have come in contact with Mexico and know something of its history and present conditions, but south of it we know little more than names. This is due to the fact that these countries have not made much history, and what they have made is told

almost exclusively by Spanish and Portuguese historians. There have appeared few books for English readers. More recently this has been changed. Closer political and commercial relations with these countries is awakening among us an interest which is showing itself, among other ways, by an increasing number of books on the history and condition of South America. In 1898 there appeared from the pen of Professor Moses a volume on *The Establishment of Spanish Rule in America*. The present volume is in a way a continuation of that work. It deals with the political, social, economic, commercial and religious history of the more southern colonies just before their freedom from Spanish rule. It contains a great deal of interesting and valuable information, especially in its treatment of the social, religious and economic conditions. But the style is not particularly lucid, and the whole book makes no definite and consistent impression. The author leans heavily upon Spanish and other historians, from whom he quotes frequently and copiously. The material has not been well digested. The touch of a master's hand is absent. It is rather a compilation than an independent history. But even thus it is quite readable and very useful.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

#### THE CHRISTMAS BOOK.

By Jane A. Stewart. The Griffith & Rowland Press, Philadelphia, 1908. Price 75 cents.

This is an excellent book for old and young. Along with the origin and history of Christmas customs in many lands, told in a most interesting way, there are suggestions and instructions for Christmas games and entertainments, for dressing the Christmas tree and doing many other things to make the day happy and gay. The possession and use of this book would keep Christmas from being dull on the one side and from being a season of debauchery and revelling on the other. It can be recommended heartily.

W. J. M.