

reviews

SARMIENTO'S TRAVELS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1847. Translated and introduced by Michael Aaron Rockland. Princeton University Press. \$9.50.

This is so good and important a book that Princeton will be missing a chance to be of service to our field if it does not promptly issue it as a paperback at one-tenth the price. No more important visitor than Domingo Faustine Sarmiento has ever come to the United States, and no visitor—not Tocqueville, Bryce, Chevalier, or whoever's book you are using in your course—ever wrote a better or more revealing work about us. If the picture is somewhat gilded, this is because Sarmiento was responding not only to the reality around him in America (after all, the visit on which the book is based was a short one), but also to what might be called the sacred values of our culture, which he perceived with great accuracy. If he writes as a propagandist, with Chile and especially Argentina in mind, so did Tocqueville, and the image projected may as with Tocqueville, in the long ago, be more important than the imperfections perceived. Certainly no visitor was ever given the power which Sarmiento wielded to try out in his own land what he thought he saw here.

Mike Rockland's translation is sprightly and accurate, his preface detailed, informative and indispensable for students.

SGL

WRITING AMERICAN HISTORY, ESSAYS ON MODERN HISTORY. By John Higham. Indiana University Press. 1970. \$6.50.

This small volume is a collection of nine essays on American historiography, only two of which appear in print for the first time. One of the new essays, "The Study of American Intellectual History," and Higham's substantive essay, "The Reorientation of American Culture in the 1890s," should be of particular interest to students of American Studies.

RWS

FEDERALISTS IN DISSENT: Imagery and Ideology in Jeffersonian America. By Linda K. Kerber. Cornell University Press. 1970. \$7.50.

This is a valuable study of Federalist ideology as it was expressed in letters, newspapers, pamphlets and congressional debates by a group of articulate men representing "an intellectual rather than a sociological stratum," a Federalist "cast of mind." The author's thesis, which reinforces the image of the Federalists provided most recently by David Hackett Fischer and James M. Banner, Jr., is that, however testy they were in response to Jeffersonian America, Federalists were not mere obstructionists but men attempting to prevent what they believed upon reasonable ideological grounds to be the disintegration of the Republic at the hands of the Jeffersonian menace. The chapter on Federalist images of the social order is excellent.

Northern Illinois University

Richard J. Twomey

THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE NEW NATION: A Biography. By Merrill D. Peterson. Oxford University Press. 1970. \$15.00.

Stressing the themes of democracy, nationality and enlightenment the author has written what he says is essentially a political biography of Thomas Jefferson. But it is much more than that. It is in fact the definitive one volume treatment of the third President—a truly magnificent work.

Northern Illinois University

Emory G. Evans

ALEXANDER HAMILTON AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: A Design for Greatness. By Gilbert L. Lyan. University of Oklahoma Press. 1970.

This book argues that Alexander Hamilton "tried to build a firm peace . . . by a