THE BEACON, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1918

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THE SPANISH
TREASUREFILETS




 aud Per ened ite pearis of Marazation after generation, and left her a poorer
country than she was before. But they provided a continual advertisement of the
New World, and they stimulated the Tortherin nations to develop their nascen sea-power and to seek colonies of their
own in North Americ, while the etores of
bullion which Spain could not keep went to fructify the trade and industry of ail
Europe. It profoundly intereting to
find in this new book by Professor Haring Yale, a detailed account-worked which are all that remain to Spain of her oost Empire-of the elaborate organization age or Columbus to the death in 1700 ppain. The whole trade with the Wester as minutely controlled by the Casa d Ontratacion, or "House of Trade," S Seville merchant princes. The strengt of the provincial jealousies which affictec, he fact that Castile at first declined Aragon or Catalonia, and that Seville, soing ships of two hundred tow or mor San Lucar, bitterly resented the competii
on of Cadiz, and fatly refused to shar is monopoly with a third Spanish por
Till the eighteenth century all the official recognized trade with the Indies passed ounce of treasure had to be brought to the
"House of Trade" to be registered and axed for the quinio or inth due to the
Cown. The Spanish Monarchy tried at
rot to mobilize the commerce of the New World, but soon found that what was e old settled countries of the East was
mpracticable in the undeveloped count.
tes of the West. It was content hence ries of the West. It was conted heonce-
forth to leave the work to private enterprise and to take its share of the profits. mines, and built the ships which took outt
Europang goods and brought hooe gold
and silver, while the Crown levied both It was soon found that treasure-ships siling homeward offered irresistable hung about the Canaries and the Azores
and had nearly intercepted Columbus him. sel. When Cortes sent home Charles V's
share of the plunder of Mexico, his three caravels were taken by the French, and
the Aztec trophies went to La Rochelle stread of to Madrid. The "House of
trade" therefore instituted a system of convoys, and levied on the merchants a
tax called the averia-a word derived from presented in English by "average" in it oriznal application to marine insurance.
The insurance rate, as we may callit, was at first $2 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent, but increased to 7 p
cent. when Drake and Hawkins got work. From the casual convoy systen ence, the plan of sending the large yearly
fleet, with a powerful aquadron of war ships, which was made compulsory fro
1554. There were in fact, two fleets. O
sailed for Mexico, or New Spain, in sping: it hed as ar arle to attendant wa
ships and was commonly called the fo or tiee. The uther sailed in August
Nombre de Dios with cargo for "Tier Spaniards called South America; th eet. which was to bring back the treasu convoy of six or eight galleons formin he Armado of the Indies, and was there
ore generally called the Galleons." The two fleets, after wintering in the Indies,
were intended to meet at Havana in the oring and sail home together. As th






 Beis on duty. But the Crown revenues
ron the fotas were very large. Philip
Iat his accession was drawing about 500 . and that must be multitiplied tenfold to give its modern equivalent. In some year
the foto brought far larger amounts.
550 La Gasca telire 1550 La Gasca delievered to Charles V bul
lion to the value of a million and a hatl ducats. In 1626 the flota brought for the
Crown bullion worth two and a a haf mill
lion ducats, hesides eight millions worth for private consignees, A carrious official
acount of the silier extracted from
Potosi between 1556 and 1640 gives a total of $400,000,000$ pesos of eight reals-the
buccaneers " pleces of eight" or dollars,
valued at four shillings-of which the
 tories of the riches bornice in the treasure feets. Yet for Spain all this wealth was
the fairy gold that turns to withere
leaves. For it served "to feed an un nation for manufacturing and commercie
life., Spain rame to depend on the
foreigner for everytning that could b ought with Amerytning that could
osid-for fod
stufs as well as for manufactured stuffs as well as for manufactured goop
and when the fow of treasures stoppe
at last, Spain woke from her dreams to find her native vigor sapped and her
dustries decayed. Corsairs, privateers, and buccaneers,
besides the war-fleets of enemy nations,
wrought continual havoc on the Spanish wrought continual havoc on the Spanish
treasure-fleet. But it is as Mr. Haring
says, a remarkable fact that an entire says, a remarkable fact that an entire
fiet was destroyed on only tree occasions
in the two centuries. Piet Heyn, Admiral In the two centuries. Piet Heyn, Admira
of the Dutch West India Company, inter-
cepted the foto from Vera Cruz in 1628 , off the coast of Cuba, took the four armed
of galleons and e eight out of eleven merchant.
men, and sailed home with a cargo worth
$15,000,000$ suilders who had illegallys stowed so so much cargo on his galleons that the guns could not be
worked, was afterwards executed, like Byng, to encourage the others." The
second to suffer was the Tierra Firme feet of 1656, which escaped the English Fle
in the Wevst Indies only to fall a aree to
squadron of those frigates commanded squadron of those frigates commanded
Captain Stayner, who was cruising
Cadiz under orders from Blake. galleon which was taken carried bullion
to the value of $2,000,000$ pessos ; two other
ships with an equal amount betweenthem ships with an equal amount between them
took fire and were lost Blake defied pre. cedent by continuing his cruise throu
the winter months, and thus was able
surprise the Mexican fota of 1656 , whi surprise the Mexican fota of 1656 , which
ad lagged behind its sisterfeet and did
aot teach the Canaries till February, 1657 . not reach the Canaries till February, 16
The flot landed ist treasure, to the vale
of over 10,000,000 pesos, and lay in arbor of Santa Cruz, the entrance to
which was defended by a castle and six or seven forts, connected by barricades for
musketeers. Early in the morning of
April 2 tht, Blake with part of his feets
ngaged the harbort ports, while Stayne engaged the harbor ports, while Stayne
with twelve frigates ran into the harbo
cast anchor opposite the flota, and batte dit until every Spanish vessel was
lazing hulk. Having completel bis blazing huik. Having completed his wort
Stayner brought his frigates safely out
te harbor, and reioined Blake, who, like the commander of the Vindictive at Zee
brugge, had expossd himself to almost certain destruction to divert the attention
of the enemy from the real objective of
the attack. Blake did not secure the ingsure, but he prevented it from reach a critical moment in the war.
We have touched on only a few of the Iteresting points in Mr. Haring's valuable
and scholarly book. The history of $S$ pan and scholarly book. The history of Span-
ish colonization is is istructive beeause
Spain committed nearly every possible
blunder and has paid the penalty. -The
Spectator. NEW BOOKBUYERS IN LONDON London, June 6-The old.time boo
uyer has almost disappeared in Londo His place has been taken by the new
partons of literature-the munition girls
and the loung and the young women employed in
Governient departments who are earn
ing more money than they had ever dreamed of receiving in wages in their
younger days
"The girls from the munitions plants and other branches of the Government Thud, surprise people who do not knaty
They have taken bookseller recently
The of the old mer of whom we all were so fond Quite a number of girrs come to my place
and buy a five or six-shiling novel every
week As for the cheaper editions of sopular novels, our difificulty is not ot
sell them, but to obtain sufficient stocks

## A POPULAR AUTHOR





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