EDITOR'S PREFACE

THIS VOLUME is the first of a series, already well under way, devoted to the activities of the Jesuits in Spanish North America between 1572, when they first arrived in Mexico City, and 1767, when they were expelled from all Spanish dominions. The work of the Jesuits in New Spain has long been an almost forgotten chapter in the history of the Western Hemisphere. Learned volumes were written on the subject by the early sons of Loyola themselves, but since their day it has received little attention either by scholars or by writers for the general public. The oblivion into which these pioneers of New Spain have fallen is quite in contrast with the lively interest shown in the Jesuits of New France, to whom Parkman devoted one of his brilliant volumes; whose *RELATIONS* were published by Thwaites in seventy-one monumental tomes; and whose work is the theme of many recent scholars and popular writers. This contrast is all the more notable since the labors of the Spanish Jesuits in North America were vastly more extensive than those of their contemporaries in New France.

A few years ago a revival of interest in the history of the Jesuits in Western North America was begun at the University of California as one of the themes of a seminar in Spanish-American history. Numerous Jesuits and other advanced students have been attracted to the subject, and their researches are now bearing fruit.

An extensive collection of old and modern printed works has been assembled in the Bancroft Library. From European and Western Hemisphere archives a large mass of facsimiles

and transcripts of unpublished manuscript materials has been acquired and is constantly being enlarged. These resources form a rich mine of unexploited data for writing the history of the truly remarkable contribution of the Jesuits to the cultural history of Western North America.

Dr. Jacobsen's volume on the EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE JESUITS IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY NEW SPAIN stands logically at the beginning of the series, since it tells of the coming of the Black Robes to Mexico, and the founding of the central establishments from which the work of the order spread. It is an illuminating chapter in the history of education in America. Later volumes of the series will deal with the labors of the Jesuit missionaries on the frontiers of Western North America. Since it emanated from the same seminar, the volume by Dr. William Eugene Shiels, S.J., on GONZALO DE TAPIA, founder of the West Coast missions, would logically stand next in the series, although published elsewhere. Other volumes completed or in preparation will tell the story of the Jesuit missions on both slopes of the great Sierra Madre in Sinaloa, Durango, Chihuahua, Sonora, Pimería Alta, and Lower California. Documentary volumes as well as monographs are in preparation.

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