Tim Fanning. ‘An important and necessary volume on the role played by Irish men and women in the emergence of the new, modern and independent republics of Latin America a welcome contribution to the literature on the history of our exiles and their descendants, this is an exciting and accessible book that is a pleasure to read.’ (From the foreword by Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland). The epic story of the forgotten Irish men and women who changed the face of Latin America forever. In the early nineteenth century, thousands of volunteers left Ireland behind to join the fight for South American independence. But it was not just during wars of independence that the Irish helped transform Spanish America. Irish soldiers, engineers and politicians, who had fled Ireland to escape religious and political persecution in their homeland, were responsible for changing the face of the Spanish colonies in the Americas during the eighteenth century. They included a chief minister of Spain, Richard Wall, a chief inspector of the Spanish Army, Alexander O’Reilly, and the viceroy of Peru, Ambrose O’Higgins.