

advance upon all previous American writing concerning state taxation. The book is accurately printed and admirably indexed.

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Mr. Brooks Adams relates, in the preface to his *Law of Civilization and Decay* (New York, Macmillan and Co., 1895, pp. x, 302), that his *Emancipation of Massachusetts* led him to study more thoroughly certain aspects of the Reformation, and that these studies led him still farther back into a more general study of history, until there gradually shaped itself in his mind the theory of history which he has presented in this volume. To the reader of the book who judges it from the standpoint of the special student of the facts of history, it seems a marked example of the influence which, consciously or unconsciously, the so-called "fall of Rome" usually exerts upon the thinking of men in regard to the course of history. For him, the book strongly emphasizes the conclusion to which many considerations must have led him, that one of the things most imperatively demanded before any very complete work can be done upon the general course of history is the minute study of the fall of Rome by some one who is not merely a thoroughly trained historical critic, but who is a thoroughly trained economist as well.

The author considers the course of history to be a regular alternation between one stage in which society is loosely organized, controlled by fear as the active cause, and of a military and imaginative type, and another in which society is highly centralized, controlled by greed, and of an economic type. The first changes into the second through the accumulation of capital, and the second changes back into the first through the extinction of the productive power under a capitalistic organization. Rome gained its empire by the strength of its military class, but at once began the development of a capitalistic class which became so powerful as to control the state, and finally to destroy the producing class. This left Rome defenceless, and the Germans easily entered and introduced a new age in which the imagination again became the controlling force. Thus was produced the theocracy of Gregory VII. and the Crusades. But the Crusades brought the West into contact with the two highest civilizations of the time,—the Eastern Empire in the final stages of centralization, and the Arabs at the meridian of their material splendor,—and this contact introduced an age of economic competition in Europe. Gradually a struggle came on between the imagination, represented by the priests, and the new economic force in which the money power gained a complete victory. This victory is the Reformation, which put the state under the control of the capitalistic class as in Rome. Since then there has been a steadily increasing centralization of society, and a more and more powerful capitalistic organization, which has reached its highest point in the present century. Now all signs point to the fact that we are approaching a second change back into another military and imaginative age.

The book is very suggestive ; it presents a theory of history which must

be reckoned with ; and it is remarkable for the skill with which the facts are selected. Its chief defects are a somewhat uncritical use of authorities, a failure to make the bearing of all the details upon the main line of the thought perfectly clear, and its decidedly one-sided treatment of a very complex development.

*A Manual of Greek Antiquities*, by Percy Gardner, Lincoln and Merton Professor of Classical Archæology at Oxford, and Frank Byron Jevons, classical tutor in the University of Durham (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895, pp. xii, 736), aims "to compress into a single volume an introduction to all the main branches of Hellenic antiquities — social, religious, and political." It does not supplant the *Dictionary of Antiquities* nor the larger German handbooks, but it gives a connected account of the outlines of the subject. Often it does more. It is, moreover, exceedingly interesting : frequently there is a sense of personal contact with the sources. Necessarily we find a rearrangement of facts that are more or less familiar, but much material will be fresh to the reader who has not followed recent archæological investigations.

Mr. Gardner treats of : The Surroundings of Greek Life ; Religion and Mythology ; Cultus ; The Course of Life ; Commerce. Different subjects are discussed with varying degrees of completeness ; sometimes the treatment will seem too meagre, but students of history will find many discriminating generalizations on men and manners. Books VI.-IX., written by Mr. Jevons, will contain for historical students perhaps even more of interest. The Homeric State, the Spartan, Cretan, and Athenian Constitutions, are treated of at length ; then Slavery and War ; and, finally, in Book IX., The Theatre ; the author defending the old-fashioned belief in the Vitruvian stage.

The Greek student will, it is hoped, be shocked by the false accents. In the first sixty-five pages there are fifteen such mistakes ; *e.g.* on page 48 occur four instances, and it is puzzling, too, to find the *φύλας* there described as made to "hold solids." The wood-cut of the Acropolis (p. 16) — to say nothing of its antiquated character — is blurred, as are some others ; usually the illustrations are judicious and helpful.

Mr. W. H. Buckler's *Origin and History of Contract in Roman Law down to the End of the Republican Period*, the Yorke Prize Essay for 1893 (Cambridge, University Press, 1895, pp. vii, 228), is devoted exclusively to the historical development of the different forms of contract at Rome up to the beginning of the empire, and accordingly the main object is the ascertaining the origin of each form, and the fixing the period in which it attained legal significance. The author is familiar with the best modern authorities, and has summed up clearly and in convenient form many of the accepted opinions. He has also taken occasion to state his own opinions in refutation of many hitherto held, but is not convincing in his theorizing. The regal period and that of the XII Tables naturally afford the best opportunity for