

Of the reprinted articles, the most noteworthy for the historian are M. Aulard's skillful studies of the causes and the sequel of the *coup d'état* of 18 Brumaire. It was hardly necessary for him to reprint his article on the authenticity of the so-called Memoirs of Talleyrand, for all scholars are aware, thanks to him and M. Flammermont, of the exact amount of credit they deserve.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

*Mémoires et Notes de Choudieu* (1761-1838). Publiés d'après les papiers de l'auteur avec une préface et des remarques par VICTOR BARRUCAND. (Paris: E. Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1897. Pp. xv, 484.)

M. VICTOR BARRUCAND has done good service to students of the history of the French Revolution in publishing the memoirs of Choudieu. The existence of Choudieu's papers in the public library of Angers has long been known; a selection from them was published in the *Revue de la Révolution* some years ago; and their present editor made considerable use of them in his valuable book on Rossignol. It is, however, a great advantage to have collected together in a handy volume everything from Choudieu's pen of real historical value. M. Barrucand explains in his preface that the papers which he has worked up are rather notes for an autobiography with scattered criticisms on other works than memoirs in the true sense of the word. Undoubtedly Choudieu at one time intended to write a complete autobiography, but the work was never finished, and the notes and papers now published are rather materials for memoirs than a consecutive account of the events in which Choudieu played a part.

Pierre Choudieu is one of the striking figures in the Reign of Terror. He was never a great political leader or an important statesman, but he was one of the valiant deputies to the National Convention sent forth, in the days of the greatest peril to France, to organize the armies of the Republic and to lead them to victory. Born at Angers, of a legal family, in 1761, Choudieu was educated at the military school at Metz, and became an officer in the artillery. He was speedily disgusted by the contempt shown in the army to those officers who were not of noble birth, and, abandoning the military profession, he entered the magistracy of his native city, and became one of the King's advocates there. The early years of the Revolution found him an enthusiastic adherent of the new ideas, and in 1791 he was elected by the department of the Maine-et-Loire to the Legislative Assembly. As a deputy, he associated with the party of the extreme Left, and won for himself some little reputation, especially as a member of the Military Committee. The earliest notes published by M. Barrucand have reference to the opening of Choudieu's career. His account of the revolutionary influences in Angers and of his military and legal experiences is interesting, but his notes upon the

Legislative Assembly are of greater value. His remarks, for instance, on the events of June 20 and of August 10, 1792, and on the massacres of September in the prisons of Paris, are of real importance. It is true that they were written in extreme old age and often take the shape of criticisms upon works upon the Revolution written under the Restoration, but they must be consulted by future historians and cannot safely be neglected in examining the events to which they relate. In 1792 Choudieu was elected to the National Convention, and about eighty pages of his notes are devoted to a somewhat fragmentary examination of the issues that arose between the Girondins and the Mountain during the early months of the Republic, and to anecdotes about the King's trial. In March, 1793, Choudieu was sent as a Deputy on Mission to the western departments, where the insurrection in La Vendée rapidly developed, and until the end of the Terror he remained on mission, first taking part in the operations for the conquest of the Vendéans, and later accompanying the triumphant advance of the Army of the North into Belgium in the summer of 1794. Choudieu not only directed the movements of generals and carried on a voluminous correspondence with the Committee of Public Safety, but also served in the field and was twice wounded in battles with the Vendean insurgents. As has already been said, Choudieu's fame rests upon his conduct during this period. He was the chief of the so-called "Court of Saumur," and his methods and those of his colleagues for the subjugation of the Vendean insurrection were vigorously attacked at the time and have been severely criticised by historians. This is not the place to examine the controversy between Philippeaux and Choudieu. It is enough to say that there is much to be said on both sides, and that sympathy for the death of Philippeaux upon the guillotine ought not to prevent justice from being done to the point of view of his chief opponent. The position of Choudieu is well known from the elaborate report which he drew up with his colleague, Richard, at the time, but a good deal of matter of great supplementary interest, amounting to about one hundred pages, is now printed by M. Barrucand from Choudieu's rather fragmentary notes. He seems to have preserved nothing with regard to his later mission with the conquering army in Belgium, and the latter part of his memoirs is filled with an account of the Thermidorian reaction, of which he was himself one of the victims. On 12 Germinal Year III. (April 1, 1795) he was ordered under arrest and was not released until the general amnesty which was declared at the time of the dissolution of the Convention. The later life of Choudieu was uneventful. He was for a short time employed in the War Department during the Directory, but as a sturdy Republican was regarded with disfavor by Napoleon, and spent the years of the Consulate and the Empire as an exile in Holland. In 1814 he returned to France, and in the following year had a moment of importance in endeavoring to rouse France against the Allies after the return of Napoleon from Elba. This conduct led to further exile, and from 1815 to 1830 he lived in poverty at Brussels with other proscribed regicides. The Revolution of 1830

opened the way for the return of the old Republican, who died in Paris in 1838. Of the long years of exile, Choudieu's notes tell next to nothing. Though he lived to be 77 years old, his political career closed with his arrest in 1795. Brief as that career was, the name of Choudieu lives as that of one of the most vigorous of the saviours of France during the time of national enthusiasm, which is designated the Reign of Terror, and M. Barrucand deserves hearty thanks for making his notes and memoirs generally accessible.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

*Mémoires du Comte Ferrand.* Publiés pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par le Vicomte de Broc. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1897. Pp. xvi, 313.)

THE Société d'Histoire Contemporaine has, since its foundation in 1892, published many most interesting volumes, some of memoirs, others of hitherto unedited documents, and others of letters. Its editors have invariably been scholars of modern training, who have dealt with their materials with reverent care and have not allowed their political prejudices to interfere with their scientific honesty. Among these editors may be noted such distinguished students of Revolutionary history as MM. de la Rocheterie, Léonce Pingaud, Victor Pierre and the Marquis de Beaucourt, and to them has now been added, for the first time, the Vicomte de Broc, who has already made his reputation by his work on France under the *ancien régime*. All these editors belong to what may be called the royalist and ecclesiastical party in the study of the history of the French Revolution. Up to the death of the Comte de Chambord this party was represented by the *Revue de la Révolution*, which was devoted to the publication of articles and documents bearing adversely upon the men and events of the Revolution. When the *Revue* unfortunately came to an end the Société de l'Histoire Contemporaine was founded. The society has the advantage of being able to draw upon the family archives of distinguished conservative actors during the Revolution, and it has thus been able to illustrate many sides of the Revolution that are apt to be neglected by its admirers. It must be admitted to the credit of the editors who have been mentioned that they never allow their prejudices to mutilate their documents, although they express their opinions freely in their introductions. The last volume published by the society contains the memoirs of Comte Ferrand. It is hardly so interesting as some of its predecessors. Ferrand was born in 1751 of a parliamentary family, and, at the age of eighteen, became one of the judges of the Parlement of Paris. His memoirs give a brief but vivid account of the parliamentary troubles which preceded the convocation of the States-General in 1789. Ferrand was a vehement royalist, and left France with the first emigration in September, 1789, to become the political adviser of the Prince de Condé. He spent about ten years in exile, taking an active part in the politics of the émigrés, and writing various