

The Papal Monarchy, from St. Gregory the Great to Boniface VIII.
(590-1303.) [The Story of the Nations.] By WILLIAM
BARRY, D.D. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London:
T. Fisher Unwin. 1902. Pp. xxii, 435.)

As indicated by the title and the dates, this work aims to emphasize one great phase of the history of the Christian church, the papal monarchy succeeding the Roman Empire and becoming for two thousand years the teacher and guide of barbarous and dismembered Europe, and forming a Christendom. It is that portion of church history when the papacy in addition to its original and necessary attributes assumed, and to a considerable extent maintained a temporal overlordship in western Europe. This began in some sort with Gregory the Great, and with the defeat of Boniface VIII. by the new national power in France the "temporal power, in this magnificent application of the word, has passed away." Setting forth in the first two chapters with considerable clearness and force the beginnings of papal history and the scope and purpose of the book, the author does not fail in many places thereafter to point and emphasize his theme; his knowledge of church history through the best authorities is abundantly apparent; and a general air of scholarly fairness and reserve is found throughout. Despite this the book as a whole is unsatisfactory; it tends to confusion. For a person with small previous knowledge of European history it would be of little value; for one who has the knowledge there are some valuable hints and interesting points of view, but large portions of the work are of no value whatever. The detail and complexity of papal history, the necessity which the author feels himself under of at least naming every pope and saying a few words about him, the vast number of matters in the history of various European countries that have to be mentioned without possibility of full explanation—these difficulties prove too much for his powers of condensation, selection, and emphasis. The book strongly illustrates the impossibility of a successful treatment of papal history apart from the general history of Europe, especially that of the Empire. A work like this has to take a knowledge of such history for granted; and if a person has that knowledge, he knows inevitably nearly everything that this book has to teach, and he has acquired it in a more natural way; he has escaped a deal of useless detail, has learned the great facts of papal history in their proper relations, and hence has a truer, more vivid, and more abiding conception of them.

The author is constantly emphasizing the fact that the Reformation and Protestantism stand for ideas and tendencies present in Europe in varying degrees all through the middle ages: Becket for England and St. Francis for Europe in general are regarded as delaying the Reformation for three centuries (pp. 277 and 313-314); the Constitutions of Clarendon are likened to Henry VIII.'s antipapal legislation (p. 272); Gerbert of Rheims was "a Protestant and Reformer, some centuries too soon" (p. 175).

In matters outside of church history there are many errors and mis-judgments: Philip of Swabia is spoken of as "usurping his nephew's inheritance" (p. 290); the rights of Magna Carta come "down from old Teutonic customs and precedents" (p. 319); Simon de Montfort "laid the foundations of a free English Parliament" (p. 352); "It was a principle of Magna Charta that the crown could not raise taxes without the consent of Parliament" (p. 398).

A. B. WHITE.

The Cambridge Modern History. Planned by LORD ACTON, LL.D.

Edited by A. W. WARD, G. W. PROTHERO, STANLEY LEATHES.

In twelve volumes. Volume I. The Renaissance. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1902. Pp. xxx, 807.)

THE first volume of the *Cambridge Modern History* was awaited with much interest, and has been accepted on all sides with evidences of high appreciation. It is truly a work of great compass and erudition. Six hundred and ninety-two pages of text, the contributions in many instances of men of international reputation and acknowledged merit, supplemented with one hundred pages of classified bibliography, are a notable addition to the literature of the Renaissance. We shall be willing to admit, at the outset, that the work has been carefully and accurately done. The most unfavorable judgment that could be rendered would still pronounce it an extensive and valuable collection of material for the better understanding of the Renaissance period; the most favorable view would regard it as a triumph of the art of coöperative historical writing.

The first instalment of the *Cambridge Modern History* comes to hand at a time when much interest is being felt in this subject of coöperative writing; when the results of several enterprises in the past have left the impression that success has yet to be achieved, and the announcements of various projects for the future have given notice that the effort is to be continued under more promising conditions. The editors, in their preface, and Dr. Creighton, in the introductory chapter, have frankly set forth the dangers and advantages of the coöperative plan. On the one hand, the difficulty of bringing the individual contributors into a scheme of harmonious development, and of preserving a just proportion in the arrangement of the several parts, together with the dangers of omission and of duplication, are serious obstacles to be overcome. Against this we have the manifest advantages of a subdivision of labor, with all that this implies, the enthusiasm of specialists, their accuracy, and a certain freshness of style and vigor of touch which comes from an intimate acquaintance with the facts at the outset of the enterprise.

The question arises, how far have the editors succeeded in overcoming the difficulties which have been enumerated? That they have secured many if not all of the advantages claimed for the system is evident. The editors modestly avow their belief "that the present work may, without presumption, aim higher than its predecessors, and may seek to be something more than a useful compilation or than a standard work of reference," that it may be "a narrative which is not a mere