

We close Mr. Petre's book with the feeling that he has done a good piece of work, filling a needed gap; and we welcome his forthcoming volume on "1806", in which, however, he will find more predecessors. In all European languages military history is prominent. Among us English-speaking peoples it is deficient, mainly because we have practised war only at intervals, and not constantly, as have the Continental nations. With our growing world-policy and the Monroe Doctrine we may in the not distant future need more military knowledge than we now possess; to create a military cult is worth while; and all good books on campaigns worth study should prove acceptable. We hope Mr. Petre has entered the arena in earnest.

THEODORE AYRAULT DODGE.

*Geschiedenis van het Nederlandsche Volk.* Door P. J. BLOK. Zevende Deel. (Leiden: A. W. Sijthoff. 1907. Pp. iii, 545.)

DR. P. J. BLOK, the professor of Dutch history at the Leiden University, is successor to Robert Fruin. He issued the first volume of his *Geschiedenis* in 1892, when at Groningen. Of his seven volumes, three have been put into English, bringing the story to the end of the Truce, 1621. Of this final volume, No. VII., Book XI. covers in six chapters the "French Period", that is, from the organization of the Batavian Republic to Waterloo and the return of the Prince of Orange. Book XII. covers in four chapters the period of the Kingdom of the United Netherlands to the secession of Belgium in 1830, and the time to 1839. The author's original plan, outlined in his preface to volume I., is thus symmetrically carried out. No other work in the Dutch language occupies a place equal to Blok's, in comprehensiveness united with fresh and scientific treatment of sources. Before becoming historian, he delved long and patiently in the archives of his own and of other countries.

Dr. Blok begins volume VII. by picturing in sprightly vein the great convention at the Hague in 1796, when the Unitaries and the Federalists met for debate and organization of the Batavian Republic. This assembly was over-rich in dangerous radicals. Returning patriots wanted the model of a French Republic followed closely, but Schimmelpenninck happily presaged the desires of the best men of both parties. Friesland and Zeeland were at that time strongly provincial or federalist, while Holland, Utrecht, and Overijssel favored the Unitary idea of centralized power. Along with the undoubted evils of French rule, order and much uniformity were brought in. The immensely diverse and foolish customs along with privileges were abolished, the archives centralized and put in order and the two feeble universities closed. Napoleon spent only three weeks in the kingdom over which he placed his brother, preparatory to incorporation with France. In addition to galling taxation, the people suffered from the decline of native manufactures and industries. Of forty thousand Dutch conscripts who marched to Mos-

cow, not two thousand returned. The experiment of Frenchifying Dutchmen was not a success. The Dutch were quite ready, after Napoleon had been sent to Elba, to meet him at Waterloo, on which field five thousand Netherlanders performed prodigies of valor.

The Kingdom of the United Netherlands was formed by action of a congress of the Powers, but Dr. Blok shows very clearly why such an ill-starred union of the Dutch and the Belgian peoples, as unlikely to mix as oil and water, could not and did not hold together. Their historical precedents, the differences in religion, the diversity of economic and industrial interests, made it impossible that the clamps put on by a congress of aliens could hold together such an artificial structure. The Belgians, most of whom would have preferred being incorporated with France, had no sympathy with Protestant Holland. Rising in revolt, they chased the Dutch out of the country. Dr. Blok goes into pretty full detail in describing the second congress, which, like divorcing lawyers, met to undo the work which their predecessors had hoped would never be put asunder. It must be painful reading to a Dutchman to note how the great monarchies employed this congress as a mere pretext to gain their own ends, using Holland as a shuttlecock. An American reader wonders whether, after all, our local and national politics are any worse than those of the sort done under such high-sounding phrases. The work concludes with a glance at the northern provinces as they begin again their separate life.

Comparing the general result with title and plan, it must be said that Dr. Blok has failed in one direction, while winning signal success in others. Here is a first-class political history, and in so far a positive contribution to knowledge. His pages show familiarity with the schemes of diplomatists and with the real thoughts and ambitions of politicians, generals, and statesmen. The great figures, like Maurice, Barneveldt, and the line of Williams, great and little, stand out on his pages as clear personalities. The trend, development, and issues of great movements are apparent, the author showing ability and grace in marking off the various periods. He sees when an issue is dead. He knows well the economic bases of the nation's story. His pages are wonderfully clear in their revelations as to the opening and closing of trade-routes and markets, and in showing how the legislation and customs of surrounding peoples made weal or woe for the Dutch people. At times he is informing and brilliant in his pictures of phases of society, notably in his treatment of the Burgundian era. From this view-point, his work is highly satisfactory. Yet on the whole, those who seek in these volumes a real history of the Dutch people, how they grew to be a nation, and what were the forces outside of politics proper that shaped them, will be disappointed. If religion be a real force in the making of a people, then one mighty factor in the evolution of the nation has been overlooked. Even the great emigration of "the Dutch Pilgrim Fathers" of 1830, and later, which so filled our own Northwest, is not so

much as mentioned. The part played by women is scarcely noticed. Herein Dr. Blok has rather fallen away from his promises. The scientific student of Netherlandish history will however richly enjoy this work, with its copious reference to authorities, both in foot-note and special chapters, its excellent indexes, and the colored maps accompanied with proper annotation in every volume. Certainly in critical value Blok's history has no rival.

WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS.

*Rome et Napoléon III. (1849-1870). Étude sur les Origines et la Chute du Second Empire.* Par ÉMILE BOURGEOIS et B. CLERMONT, avec une Préface de GABRIEL MONOD. (Paris: Armand Colin. 1907. Pp. xvii, 370.)

THIS is an important book. First, it illustrates that fine disinterestedness which characterizes contemporary historical scholars in France. They have the good fortune to be placed within reach of material which their brothers in Germany and England are denied. There is nothing so kind to a historian as a successful revolution if it unearths the material he requires. Since 1871, or more properly since about 1885, Republican France has been lavishly pouring out state secrets concerning the Republic of 1848 and the Second Empire. As a political move what could be shrewder than to expose the blunders and wickedness of Louis Napoleon's régime? The dullest Frenchman can hardly wish to restore the Empire, when he has seen the Empire as it was. What historian does not wish that he might have equally free access to the archives of Prussia and Germany from 1860 to 1890, instead of having to depend on official historiographers, who naturally write to fit their story to the prescribed Hohenzollern legend? Fear of *lèse-majesté* does not conduce to impartial writing. But the French wish to do more than discredit Imperialism; they are earnestly bent on profiting by their national failures. It is the purpose of learning from the recent past what to shun in the present and what to pursue in the future that gives to a monograph like this of MM. Bourgeois and Clermont its impress of *actualité*, as the French themselves call it. And the general spirit of veracity, even when veracity exposes French blunders, makes their work disinterested.

In the next place this book traces for the first time the results of Napoleon III.'s meddling in Rome. We have had hitherto a mass of testimony, both French and Italian, in regard to the Roman Expedition of 1849 and the September Convention; we have also a good deal of material about the preliminaries of the War of 1870 and of the attitude of Italy and Austria after war was declared: but MM. Bourgeois and Clermont are the first to show, in a single volume, the causal sequence between the three crises. With commendable openness they follow step by step the insincerity which prompted the Prince President to despatch Oudinot's corps to suppress the Roman Republic of 1849, and