

entered into each composition, and the authors of each are established; in the second place, the order of each of them is demonstrated.

J. W. T.

*The Golden Sayings of the Blessed Brother Giles of Assisi.* Newly translated and edited, together with a Sketch of his Life, by the Rev. Fr. Paschal Robinson, of the Order of Friars Minor. (Philadelphia, The Dolphin Press, 1907, pp. lxiii, 141.) In the Franciscan order there existed from an early date a school of asceticism remarkable at once for elevation of thought and vivacity of expression. Of this twofold characteristic, one of the best exemplifications is this collection of sayings, which is ranked by the Bollandists at the head of its class. Giles was of the first company of St. Francis and outlived him thirty-five years. To him, as a link between the first and second generations of Franciscans, many of the younger members of the order resorted for advice after the death of its founder, and Giles's replies to such inquiries are the genesis of this collection. Giles himself was unlettered, and the identity of the collector, or collectors, is unknown. The collection existed, in manuscript, as early as the thirteenth century, and it was first printed, in Latin, at Mainz in 1463. Notwithstanding the mention by Sbaralea of an English translation supposed to have been issued at Douai in 1633, the present volume appears to be the first English edition. The *Golden Sayings* themselves are of historical value as illustrating the spiritual side of early Franciscan teaching, an aspect hitherto inadequately recognized; and historians will appreciate especially the editor's scholarly introduction.

*Select Statutes and Other Constitutional Documents Illustrative of the Reigns of Elizabeth and James I.,* edited by G. W. Prothero, Litt.D., Honorary Fellow of King's College. Third edition. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1906, pp. cxxv, 490.) This standard and indispensable work now appears in a third edition. The changes are few. One statement in the introduction has been modified, and six documents have been added in the appendix. The pagination of the body of the book remains unchanged in the three editions.

None of the new material is here printed for the first time. Mr. Lingelbach has made us familiar with the Charter of the Merchant Adventurers, 1564. There is a Letter of Marque of the year 1585, with two accompanying papers, which throw light upon the half-piratical methods of reprisal in vogue among reputable governments during the Elizabethan age. The Minute Book of the Dedham Classis, 1582-1589, throws light upon the introduction of Presbyterianism into England. The striking similarity between these "conferences" and the "exercises" authorized in the diocese of Peterborough in 1571, three years before Queen Elizabeth suppressed "those vain prophecies", makes clear how short the step would have been in those early years to com-

the method of collecting statistics on the growth of enclosures and the decay of towns.

The value of this collection to the serious student of American history can hardly be over-estimated. It contains a rich treasure of concise and accurate information upon all phases of the structure of English society at the beginning of American settlement. Whether one wants a general idea of some important institution, or facts bearing upon some point of detail, there is no single volume for the period which compares with it in richness of content. With no great labor in piecing the fragments together, one can get a complete view of the essential features of the structure and organization of the English Church. By simple reference to the index one will find something short and illuminating upon such a subject as indentured servants, or the care of the poor. Though ecclesiastical doctrine does not fall strictly within its scope, I do not know where to find a better brief statement of the doctrines of the Independents than on page 223, or of early Puritan demands than on page 191.

The long introduction is not the least valuable part of the book. It offers a general view of such topics as the organization of Parliament, the relations of Parliament to the Crown, the arbitrary courts, the rise of Puritanism, penal laws against the Puritans and the Roman Catholics, the judiciary, the army, and the navy.

G. J.

*De Republica Anglorum. A Discourse on the Commonwealth of England.* By Sir Thomas Smith. Edited by L. Alston, Christ's College, with a preface by F. W. Maitland, LL.D., Downing Professor of the Laws of England. (Cambridge, University Press, 1906, pp. liii. 210.) This treatise is a famous work, and yet not accurately known. A Latin translation has been mistaken, even by scholars, for the original text. The present volume is a reprint of the first edition, published in 1583, eighteen years after the work was written and six years after the author's death. Smith was the first Regius Professor of civil law at Cambridge; and he was appointed secretary of state under Somerset in 1548, and again, under Elizabeth, in 1572. In scholarship, law, and religion, he was on the side of reform. In this treatise his breach with medievalism appears by his ignoring all connection between theology and politics. On the other hand, the editor maintains that Smith's position as a forerunner of the modern view of parliamentary, as against royal, supremacy, has been exaggerated, Mr. Alston's opinion being that Smith's oft quoted statement on that point is qualified distinctly in the succeeding sentences. In fact, to Smith, with his legal bias, the constitution of a commonwealth consists practically of its courts; and it is only as parts of the judicial system that the King and Parliament receive, in this treatise, attention. In addition to these and other points, Mr. Alston discusses the use made of each other's writings by Smith in this work and by Harrison in his *Description of England*; the balance