

seiner Sinne geworden, und nach der zwingenden Gewalt ihres Willens lenkte sie die Uebung der Macht in seinen Händen", and more in like strain.

The judgment of the author on most mooted points seems in the main sound and well-considered. Sometimes an opinion appears a little extreme, as when he says (II. 244), speaking of the accession of Septimius Severus, "Es war der schicksalsschwerste Augenblick in der Geschichte Roms." He goes on to argue that Severus was in temperament an Oriental and practically undid the Empire by bringing Oriental despotism and degeneracy into the West. This is surely putting it over strongly. Many things pulled down the Western Empire besides the over-masterful personality of this great African.

The plan of the work precludes foot-notes and references. It is needless to say, however, that the scholarship is of the ripest. To those to whom history is a mere record of dust-covered institutions these volumes will mean little; to those to whom history is—in the words of a great American teacher of medieval history—"the continuous record of human experience", this work will have a high interest, and a value far outweighing any inequalities.

WILLIAM STEARNS DAVIS.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*Histoire de Charles V.* Par R. DELACHENAL. Tome I., 1338–1358; Tome II., 1358–1364. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1909. Pp. xxv, 475; 494.)

THIS work is a valuable addition to the list of monographs upon the reigns of French kings, such as have been produced in recent years by Cartellieri, Lehugeur, Boutaric, and others. The author, who is already known for several minor contributions in the same field, has now undertaken a greatly extended plan, of which the present two volumes on the years of Charles's minority and regency are but the first installment.

It is indeed time that a new study of the subject be presented, for while Charles V. has ever been a favorite theme of historians, no adequate investigation of his reign in the light of modern scholarship has yet been made. Strange to say, the author does not find the current traditions and opinions concerning "the wise king" and his prominent contemporaries far wrong in their trend, so that his work is not so much a correction and reshaping of existing views, as it is an elaboration and clarification of the material in detail. Even the course of his narrative runs in conventional lines, taking up the characters and episodes of the history for the greater part in their familiar order.

In technique the work bears the stamp of the *École des Chartes*, with its comprehensive and lucid citation of authorities, among which are

many revisions of original texts as well as some newly edited. For undiscovered documents diligent search has been made not only in the national and departmental archives of France, but also in the richer collections of England, and to a lesser extent in the Vatican Library. It is in the combined use of English and French sources, especially in the field of diplomatic relations, that the author has been most successful in bringing new material to light. For the internal history of France, however, in the way of documentary evidence it cannot be claimed that great advancement has been made. From the lack of Chancery and Exchequer records, the historian is still mainly dependent upon the chronicles, among which those of Froissart remain as prominent as ever. While no statement of this chivalric chronicler can be relied upon without corroboration, his literary art still serves to furnish many a picturesque tale and dramatic scene.

Disclaiming any plan of a complete history, M. Delachenal follows closely the thread of events with which the dauphin was associated. Personalities are foremost, among which that of Charles the Bad is the most clearly drawn. As heir to several counties and castles, as King of Navarre, and as a possible claimant to the crown of France, in all the war and politics of the time, Charles of Évreux maintained against the house of Valois an almost dynastic rivalry. With various claims unsatisfied, he readily drifted into an alliance with the English, the negotiations of which in 1355 he is proved to have carried on at the same time that he was making terms with John II. His treachery and double dealing would have an ethical bearing, were it not matched by others on every side. Without many similar defections among the French barons and provinces, anticipating in a measure the struggles of the Great Feud, the English would have proved an enemy "little redoubtable".

The most controversial theme which the book presents is found in Étienne Marcel. In him Delachenal sees nothing of the "generous soul", "the grandest figure of the fourteenth century", who would have founded "representative government" in France, as have historians of republican sympathies. He is described rather as the scion of a bourgeois family of superior lineage, and the representative of a mercantile group which had profited much under the extravagant court of John the Good, and which became disaffected under the stricter régime of the regent. After the example of Van Arteveldt and the Flemish communes, with the arts at once of a demagogue and a diplomat, he was seeking the domination of his own special class in Paris, and of the commune of Paris over the country at large. His alliance with Charles the Bad, his appeal to the Flemings, his assassination of the king's marshals, his complicity with the Peasants' Revolt, are accounted among the mistakes which led to his downfall. It is unfortunate that most of our knowledge of this man and his cause comes from the hostile and often incorrect accounts of the Grand Chronicles.

The diplomatic relations with the English present a mass of experimental truces and treaties. Among the conventions prior to 1360 is found one of the year 1358, which was evidently the basis of the treaty of Brétigny, and is an explanation of the quickness with which that instrument was finally drawn. The persistence with which Edward III. insisted upon his title to the crown of France is taken to indicate on his part a more serious purpose in this direction than most writers allow. That the ransom of the King of France was placed at the highest possible figure, is shown by the arduous efforts of the government in raising the money and by its delay in making even the first payment.

The deficiencies of the book lie most patently in its over-emphasis of individual action and its lack of historical atmosphere. While institutions in their completeness may well be left to a different kind of history, more must be told of the king's council, the dauphin's council, the estates, and other political forces, properly to understand the field of action. Even the financial questions which were vital are not so fully described as are the raids and marches of free companies. The proof-reading, too, may be criticized in many points, particularly among the quotations in English. A single diagram of the field of Poitiers suggests the comment that a work of this size might well contain many more illustrative pages.

JAMES F. BALDWIN.

*The New Cyneas of Éméric Crucé.* Edited with an introduction and translated into English from the original French text of 1623 by THOMAS WILLING BALCH. (Philadelphia: Allen, Lane, and Scott. 1909. Pp. xxxi, 364.)

At Paris in 1623, there was published a little book to show the princes of that day, with a sweet reasonableness, how to bring about universal peace and freedom of trade. The author's name as given on the title-page was Em. Cr. The advanced and humane views advocated were occasionally referred to by later writers, they interpreting Em. Cr. to be Éméric de la Croix. The book became extremely scarce. At the present time only two copies are known, one in the Bibliothèque Nationale, the other in the library of Harvard University. In 1890, Professor Nys discovered the author's real name to be Éméric Crucé through an ancient anagram in his honor.

Of this book, called the *New Cyneas*, the work under review is a reprint (painfully copied from the Harvard example) and a translation. So that for the first time the "pacifist" scholar may study a scheme for the general settlement of international disputes published earlier even than Henry IV.'s *Grand Dessein*, as given in Sully's memoirs and from which Sully may possibly have drawn his idea of arbitration.

Now although this feature of the book is of most interest to us, it occupied but little space in the *New Cyneas*; nevertheless the whole