

had just uttered the last word. His especial abhorrence is Martineau, and, in less degree, Spencer Walpole, "blinking through liberal spectacles" (p. 262). So in the inevitable comparison of Castlereagh and Canning, he rises to a defense of the former, naïvely unconscious that Castlereagh's status was long since established, while Canning is portrayed with no apparent knowledge that any but Stapleton, "the most wooden of her [England's] writers" (p. 300), have given thought to the great foreign secretary. The author's "Let there be an end, then, to this exaltation of Canning at the expense of Castlereagh" (p. 276), is sublime. It would be unfair, however, to the writer not to add that his work offers a straightforward, readable account of English history from 1801 to 1832, careful and exact in its statements of fact.

E. D. ADAMS.

*Correspondance du Comte de la Forest, Ambassadeur de France en Espagne, 1808-1813.* Publiée pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par M. GEOFFROY DE GRANDMAISON. Tome I., Avril 1808-Janvier 1809; Tome II., Janvier-Septembre 1809; Tome III., Octobre 1809-Juin 1810. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1905, 1908, 1909. Pp. xlv, 456; 470; 492.)

It is gratifying to know that not all the credulous Europeans of the rationalistic eighteenth century who were drawn into the parlous game of American land speculation came out at the little end, with a life of regret in store. René de la Forest, as a young man of twenty-three, came to the United States with the Chevalier de la Luzerne in 1779 to serve in a modest way in the French legation. He remained here some fifteen years, as vice-consul in Savannah, as consul in Charleston and in New York. He had the sagacity to sell his properties in France before the crash of the Revolution and to invest his small capital in the broad acres of Virginia. These *vastes domaines d'Amérique* he later sold for an excellent sum, which he invested in 1803 in an attractive country-place in France. But this does not complete the *épopée*. When Talleyrand's career in France was interrupted by events which he could not control he came to America, as is well known. Here La Forest was able by reason of his experience to give the thrifty ex-bishop sound advice in regard to land purchases, and when the latter became Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1797 he appointed his obliging counsellor to a subordinate position. La Forest was launched and henceforth he sailed over prosperous seas. He accompanied Joseph to Lunéville to help make the treaty of 1801; he was sent to Regensburg to engage in the art of remaking the map of Germany; he was made ambassador to Berlin in 1803; he was ambassador to Spain from 1808 to 1813; he held the portfolio of foreign affairs in the provisional government of 1814. Louis XVIII. made him a peer of France, and Charles X. made him a minister of state. His is one of the Protean careers which enliven the history of France from Louis XV. to Louis Philippe.

His mission to Spain was the most important chapter in his career, and it is his correspondence during these years that is now fortunately being given to the world. That correspondence includes nearly nine hundred letters and bulletins, and is full of interest. The three volumes thus far published cover the period from April 9, 1808, to June 29, 1810. They are admirably edited with abundant explanatory notes by Geoffroy de Grandmaison, already favorably known by his *L'Ambassade Française en Espagne de 1789 à 1804* and his *L'Espagne et Napoléon (1804-1809)*.

La Forest was a diplomat of the old school. His letters are admirable in tone and style, measured, urbane, adroit, informing. He always has at hand the phrase that reveals and the phrase that conceals or suggests. His position was not an easy or a pleasant one. As Napoleon's accredited minister at the court of Joseph he was half ambassador, half spy. It is evident that his presence was not agreeable to Joseph. He did not have the confidence of the king, and the military men seem to have kept him in ignorance of their plans and acts. While his letters abound with military details, they are generally of minor importance, representing as they do second-hand information, and frequently mere rumors. The military side of Napoleon's Spanish imbroglio is, however, sufficiently well known, as is also the general opposition of Napoleon and Joseph, which grew out of the fact that the former's interests were European, the latter's Spanish. But the letters of La Forest are valuable as throwing curious and sharp side-lights on the political history of the time, a subject on which original material is very inadequate. La Forest sends home elaborate accounts of Joseph's entry into Madrid, of his receptions, appointments, circulars, of his appearance at theatres, churches, bull-fights, and of the attitude of the public. He describes the various activities of the king, the council of ministers, and the council of state, the introduction of the system of prefects, the abolition of the old military orders, and the establishment of new ones. He sends home the texts and analyzes the spirit of the decrees of Joseph on administration, on finance, on the army, on religious orders, on the conditions of sale of the confiscated property, on the abolition of crown monopolies, on the suppression of provincial tariffs, on the right of asylum in churches, on the creation of a stock exchange and commercial tribunals, on popular education, on the attempted introduction of the Napoleonic Code. He describes the financial distress of Spain and the attempts to meet it. He notes the divisions among the ministers of the king as well as among the generals. His letters abound with very discreet, yet pointed, criticism of Joseph, of his slowness, of his *bonté*, of his bestowal of lavish gifts, when the state was virtually bankrupt, of the influence of courtiers upon him, of his mildness toward his "rebels". Not a trace of sympathy or apparent comprehension of the inherent difficulties in the way of that monarch who ruled by grace of an imperious as well as imperial brother.

Never criticizing the emperor's conduct and always ascribing the failure of his beneficent policies to an ignorant and narrow-minded populace, a fanatical clergy, and *le machiavellisme d'Angleterre*, never betraying any sympathy with the Spaniards, La Forest yet contrives to weave discretely into his letters comments on the effects of imperial measures, which Napoleon might have taken as hints to change his conduct, had he desired hints from his emissaries. An excellent illustration of this is his account in the third volume of the feeling aroused by Napoleon's decree of February 8, 1810, annexing northern Spain to France.

Not that La Forest was especially perspicacious. His is the conventional diplomat's point of view. Everything is a matter of manipulation and finesse. He did not at all appreciate the spontaneity and profundity of the popular wrath at Napoleon; it was simply the work of designing men who had objects of their own. His forecasts have a way of being belied. In 1808 he urges upon Napoleon the importance of Joseph's immediate arrival in Spain as certain to end the uprising. The Spanish people, he said, are most devoted to the doctrine of the *real presence*. But Joseph's first stay in Madrid was limited to ten days and ended in humiliating flight. La Forest expects everything from Napoleon's own coming. The Spaniards will then see the futility of opposition and the insurrection will collapse. Such did not prove to be the case. He expects domestic tranquillity as a result of the Austrian campaign of 1809, but it was not forthcoming. La Forest was certainly not a prophet nor was he proficient in *Völkerpsychologie* but he was an industrious diplomatist who, as he said himself, sought to show some wisdom and much zeal. His correspondence is an historical source of indisputable value, but not of the first rank, because he was not in the confidence of Joseph or his ministers, or the generals or even of Napoleon.

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*Duchesse de Dino (puis Duchesse de Talleyrand et de Sagan): Chronique de 1831 à 1862.* Publiée avec des Annotations et un Index Biographique par la Princesse RADZIWILL née Castellane. Tome III., 1841-1850. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 1909. Pp. 530.)

THE last part of this third volume of the *Chronique* is of more direct historical interest than were the preceding volumes, for it embodies remarkably illuminating impressions of the larger incidents of European history during a period of extraordinary changes. The first part is valuable for another reason, because it reveals a further stage in the development of a singularly strong and beautiful character. What is called *le monde* is plainly losing its hold upon Mme. de Dino, although in 1841 she was only forty-eight years old. In March, 1841, she regrets leaving the shelter of her "home" at Rochecotte, remarking "La navi-