

(New York, The Macmillan Company, 1910, pp. xix, 453.) This volume, though by no means epoch-making, will meet a cordial reception from the reading public. The author has already issued a *Life in Ancient Athens* which has achieved a marked success, and now in a greater compass he has endeavored to prepare a similar work on Rome. His avowed aim has been "to make the unlearned public feel interest in ancient life and thought"; and measured by this standard the work must be pronounced as reaching its goal despite considerable unevenness in execution. Four hundred and forty-nine pages are no very ample space wherein to describe the entire society, polity, and economic condition of the world of 60 A. D. On the whole more would have been accomplished by courageously omitting the inadequate chapters on the Imperial System, the Army, the Religion, etc., and concentrating strictly upon the private antiquities.

Dr. Tucker follows careful guides, and his opinions are almost always sound if not always very striking. In fact many chapters bear the evidence of a close though commendable companionship with Friedlaender and Marquardt. The entire omission of any kind of foot-notes is, considering the audience, an admirable feature and worthy of imitation. Taking the book in its entirety, it is not likely to supplant any of the existing works on the subject, with the possible exception of the old antiquated translation of Becker's *Gallus*, and it will bring little that is new to the advanced scholar. The style, however, is eminently readable, and it will prove most interesting as supplementary work for the high school and college freshman Latin student. It ought surely to find its way into all educational libraries. The illustrations are numerous, well-chosen, and truly helpful to the text.

WILLIAM STEARNS DAVIS.

*Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, Third Series, volume IV. (London, the Society, 1910, pp. vii, 174, 30.) This volume, thinner than most of its predecessors, contains in fact but 160 pages of text. Besides the presidential address of Archdeacon Cunningham, devoted mainly to consideration of Lord Bacon's ideas respecting history and to the application of them to modern inquiries, the book contains seven papers read before the society by its members. Mr. I. S. Leadam offers a competent but compressed study of the finance of Lord Treasurer Godolphin, Mr. Hubert Hall a statement of the sources for the history of Sir Robert Walpole's financial administration. The late Mr. L. W. Vernon Harcourt suggests a plausible solution of the old puzzle respecting Shakespeare's fusion of Sir John Oldcastle and Sir John Falstaff or Fastolf, the writer having discovered a Sir John Fastolf of Nacton who is earlier than Sir John of Caister the general, and whose story has relations to that of Prince Hal and Chief Justice Gascoigne. Mr. R. A. Roberts, secretary to the Historical Manuscripts Commission, describes the history and operations of that commission. Under the title, The

Duc de Choiseul and the Invasion of England, 1768-1770, Miss Margaret C. Morison describes the secret reports respecting the possibilities of such invasion which Choiseul obtained from two emissaries, Colonel Grant of Blairfindy and Lieutenant-Colonel Beville—parts of the same scheme of spying with which American students are familiar in the case of the reports made to Choiseul respecting American conditions by Johann Kalb. Out of the estate book of Henry de Bray of Harlestone in Northamptonshire, 1289-1340, Miss Dorothy Willis develops an interesting picture of village conditions at the time. Finally Miss M. D. Gordon studies certain questions regarding ship-money under Charles I.—its assessment, collection, and amount.

*L'Immunité Franque.* Par Maurice Kroell, Docteur en Droit. (Paris, Arthur Rousseau, 1910, pp. xxiii, 363.) A painstaking study of the immunity—that ill-understood, political institution which proved such a potent factor in making feudal society—has long been needed. Fustel de Coulanges was never as brilliant in constructing feudal origins as in upsetting extreme "Germanist" contentions; he guessed a good deal, and used documents whose spurious character has now been established. And the treatises of Waitz, Brunner, and Esmein are too general to convey a clear-cut impression of the immunity itself. It has remained for one of Professor Esmein's students to supply the need.

M. Kroell takes us back to the fourth and fifth centuries in order to indicate the tendency of the Roman emperors to exempt not only their own personal estates but also the private domains of various lay and ecclesiastical magnates from the jurisdiction of the regular provincial officials. This condition the Franks found and adopted upon entering the empire; and their kings, in order to ensure the loyalty of the foremost chieftains, began to issue formal prohibitions to the royal officers against entering the immune lands. Thus in the Merovingian period the immune proprietor becomes almost independent, although his freemen and serfs owe the king military service, and in some regions he continues to pay taxes. The Merovingian immunity is "un privilège anarchique, accordé par la royauté à des *potentes* laïcs ou ecclésiastiques en vue de s'assurer leur fidélité". On the other hand, the Carolingian immunity, according to the author, is essentially different. Charlemagne conceived of it as a useful method of organization for ecclesiastical lands, and he and his successors, while extending it over their vast empire and granting new powers to the proprietors, tried to make the immunity a royal institution, for a time with success.

The greater part of the work is admirably clear, accurate, and convincing. There are important chapters on the life of the people upon immune estates and on the privileges of the proprietors—financial, judicial, and military—as complete doubtless as the fragmentary character of the sources would allow. Perhaps to some of us the very sharp line drawn between the Merovingian and Carolingian periods will seem a