

The rule of Robartes and of Berkeley and of Essex were but an interregnum. And in these pages Ormonde becomes not merely what he appears in English history, a staunch and honest Protestant royalist, but an unusually able and sincere public servant. The others come off less happily, Berkeley in particular. Of the events the Irish Cattle Bill is naturally the chief and it may be said in passing that here is to be found the first account which can be called even reasonably adequate of that important measure. In striking comparison with that is such a chapter as that describing the siege of Londonderry. "It was the remark of a brilliant writer", says Mr. Bagwell, "that trying to describe the siege of Londonderry after Macaulay was like trying to describe the siege of Troy after Homer. No elaborate copy need be attempted here." There, in a sense, you have the measure of the book after it reaches 1685. It is far from being a copy of Macaulay. The style, throughout, is ragged and inconsequent, it abounds in isolated statement of fact; unless one were interested in the subject to begin with it might well be unreadable. Yet there is much of "the root of the matter" in it. It abounds in sentences and phrases which reveal the author. "A cloud of Irish witnesses continued to obscure the truth." "The lame foot of justice halted until 1694." And, however inspired by Macaulay's third chapter—and however different from it—no one can read the present account of Social Ireland between the Restoration and the Revolution without interest, amusement, and improvement. It would be easy to indicate a score of places in which a reviewer would differ with the author in questions of perspective, of the relation between English and Irish affairs during this period, or of the bearing of the less tangible factors of politics upon events. It might be possible to make out a case for, let us say, the Irish Popish Plot; and one may well regret the omission of reference to the subterranean activities which centred in the Whites, and their relations to the Duke of York. But, making allowance for the lack of style, no student of Irish history, or of the late seventeenth century, but must be more than grateful for the mass of information here brought together, and no future historian but must take account of Bagwell, as he has taken account of Macaulay.

W. C. ABBOTT.

*Lord Granville Leveson Gower (First Earl Granville): Private Correspondence, 1781 to 1821.* Edited by his daughter-in-law, CASTALIA COUNTESS GRANVILLE. In two volumes. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1916. Pp. xxviii, 510; ix, 597.)

IN a rather indefinable way these volumes are of absorbing interest. As a collection of letters alone, they well repay reading.

Lord Granville appears principally as the person written to, so that the title used by the editor does not quite bear out the substance of the

text. For the correspondence proceeds chiefly from one of Granville's friends, Lady Bessborough. An unconventional attachment between the two, begun in 1794 when Lady Bessborough was already thirty-three and Granville scarcely twenty-one, occasioned the almost daily letters that passed between them. The ardor of their intimacy, which remained throughout irreproachable, spent itself in the passionate interest Lady Bessborough bestowed upon Granville's political career. Of the two, as these letters show, hers was by far the keener mind, the finer ambition, and the stronger will. Fate perversely ordained her the beneficent genius of this undeniably handsome, spoiled, and quite second-rate statesman.

Lady Bessborough's associations were with Holland House. Granville was a follower of Pitt and Canning. But as Granville's correspondent, Lady Bessborough remained always impartial in her selection of news; in fact she kept in touch with every political clique in London. Often her ability or luck in acquiring information at first-hand seems phenomenal. Canning once complained that he was obliged to have recourse to her for what passed in sessions of the Cabinet, as Pitt did not divulge to him the results of ministerial deliberations. Many of her letters then are new and authentic disclosures from inside the official political circle.

But the more general value of the collection is derived from Lady Bessborough's own remarkable character. The critic who said of Mrs. Browning that she was not a poetess but a poet, drew a distinction which applies to Lady Bessborough as a political correspondent. There is in her letters such strength and discerning sympathy and spirited judgment; such evidence of a cultivated intellect suffused with feeling; that only the society of pre-Revolutionary France can furnish a comparable example.

It is no small pleasure and no small gain to be able to view the great characters of this period (1794-1821) through the eyes of an observer of Lady Bessborough's temperament. For purposes of research a limited portion only of what she writes may be actually new and useful; yet the period is made richer when its men and events stand out in an epistolary style of such unexceptionable quality. It is impossible not to catch eagerly at every impression Pitt, Canning, Fox, Sheridan, the Prince Regent, Lord and Lady Holland, and a dozen others make upon Lady Bessborough's mind; especially as she writes with a delightful absence of self-consciousness, and as one within the circle.

The miscellaneous character of the correspondence as a whole, including the letters from Granville's family and his political acquaintances as well, make a critical valuation difficult. In the 90's Pitt appears in the background as a cold, Olympian presence, felt rather than seen. When Lady Bessborough says of one of his speeches: "It was the most brilliant, spirited, and *unfeeling* I ever read", we welcome the phrase as a genuine and telling expression of opinion. The picture of Pitt after

1801 is clearly that of the "Superior Being" fallen from his high estate, and forfeiting the respect of his friends by a too obvious manoeuvring to retrieve lost ground. But there is a crescendo of admiration as Pitt nears his end; the long letter on his death is most minutely circumstantial, and will probably supersede any previously published description. Canning's repellent air of self-conscious rectitude appears nowhere more clearly than in one of his own letters to Granville describing his having fallen in love. He writes as though defending himself from the Opposition for a lapse of official conduct. A distressful picture of Sheridan as a drunken blackguard, persecuting Lady Bessborough with attentions, balances an equally distressful picture of the Prince Regent grovelling before her with an amorous proposal. Granville's part in Malmesbury's peace missions to the Directory, and his own missions to Berlin and St. Petersburg, and Lady Bessborough's descriptions of Paris society in 1802-1803, are noticeably good. Countless small points, such as—the slump in the London stock market when word of Jefferson's election was received, the report of Lord Selkirk's appointment as minister to Washington in 1806, the bungled arrangements at Nelson's funeral, etc., will be new to many; and a letter of 1812 is fresh material for the episode between Lady Bessborough's daughter, Lady Caroline Lamb, and Lord Byron. The descriptions of Holland House and its society are as vigorous as Sidney Smith's and deserving of equal recognition. One or two letters from Ireland epitomize with sympathy for the peasant the difficulties of the land question.

Lady Granville's work as editor has been conscientiously done; the task was by no means a light one, especially as parts of letters sent through the diplomatic bag of the Foreign Office required deciphering. The date of the *Anti-Jacobin* (I. 195, note) is incorrectly given. The index, essential to the use of such scattered material, is, with one or two exceptions, fully adequate.

C. E. FRYER.

*The Chartist Movement in its Social and Economic Aspects.* By FRANK F. ROSENBLATT, Ph.D. Part I. [Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, edited by the Faculty of Columbia University, vol. LXXIII., no. 1, whole no. 171.] (New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1916. Pp. 248.)

*The Decline of the Chartist Movement.* By PRESTON WILLIAM SLOSSEN, Ph.D. [Columbia Studies, vol. LXXIII., no. 2, whole no. 172.] (*Ibid.* 1916. Pp. 216.)

*Chartism and the Churches: a Study in Democracy.* By HAROLD UNDERWOOD FAULKNER, Ph.D. [Columbia Studies, vol. LXXIII., no. 3, whole no. 173.] (*Ibid.* 1916. Pp. 152.)

It is a little over sixty years since a book wholly devoted to the history of the Chartist movement was issued from the English press; for