

ments. He aligns himself with the school which believes the Declaration of Paris went too far ahead of the opinion of the times, and warns against any attempts at reform which fail to take account of the strength of the belief in the military importance of the destruction of enemy commerce.

LOUISE FARGO BROWN.

Characters from the Histories and Memoirs of the Seventeenth Century, with an Essay on the Character, and Historical Notes. By David Nichol Smith. (London and New York, Oxford University Press, 1918, pp. lii, 331, \$2.70.) Mr. Smith has an excellent idea, which, though not new, has produced an interesting book. The selection of a large group of "characters" from seventeenth-century English writings, preceded by an entertaining and informing essay on this species of literary expression, and supplemented by full and illuminating notes, all these witness the industry and knowledge of the compiler and contribute to the pleasure of the reader. No one can read such a collection without renewed interest in this most human and intimate of English centuries. Like those editors who have of late culled for us the choicer flowers of Raleigh and Clarendon, Mr. Smith has laid us under a debt of gratitude for what he has done. It seems the more ungrateful, therefore, to find fault with a volume which cannot fail to provide so much pleasure and profit for any one into whose hands it may come; yet we cannot but regret one obvious limitation. There is somewhat too much of Clarendon, who is honored with nearly as many selections as all other writers together. We could well spare some of these, good as they are, for a wider selection. Ludlow's evaluation of Cromwell, more of North and Aubrey, some of Evelyn and Pepys, and, above all perhaps, some of Sir William Monson's penetrating sketches, would have added variety and spice. Marvell's lines on Charles II., to take one instance of many, would have lightened a page; and there lie buried in the *Historical Manuscript Commission Reports* many lesser examples of an admirable art which might have lent sparkle to the greater jewels set here, if only by contrast of greater informality. Yet when so much is good, it ill becomes us to criticize too closely. There is not anywhere else in English so good an essay on the "character" as this; and though one might insist somewhat more than its accomplished author on the distinction between externals and intellectual or spiritual qualities, and their elucidation as exemplified in Clarendon and Burnet, he has said much on an interesting theme and said it well.

W. C. A.

Le Cardinal Collier: Lettres et Prophéties de Marie-Thérèse; l'Em-bûche Autrichienne. Par J. Munier-Jolain. (Paris, Payot et Cie., 1918, pp. 238, 4.50 fr.) In this little volume M. Munier-Jolain endeavors to broaden the setting in which the life of Cardinal de Rohan has been

placed by tradition and by the judgment of previous historians. He regards the Diamond Necklace affair as a mere incident in Rohan's life, and a minor incident but for its tragic consequences to Marie Antoinette. According to the author's view, Rohan is something more than a great noble of low character and inconceivable frivolity; he is a man of unusual mental gifts and far-reaching ambition. He does not deny the fact of Rohan's immoralities; on the contrary he adds new details. But he quotes testimony to Rohan's intellectual interests, his artistic tastes, his extraordinary alertness of mind. He also finds it hard to believe that even in an age of privilege and favor a fool should have been made honorary member of the French Academy, provisor of the Sorbonne, and grand almoner of France, to say nothing of the fact that he had been French ambassador at Vienna for two years and a half. He believes Rohan's goal was no less a position than that of chief minister of the king. Marie Antoinette stood in his way. She tried to prevent his being made grand almoner, but failed because of a promise the king had made to the cardinal's cousin, the Comtesse de Marsan. In his duel with the queen, Rohan lent himself to the libellers who were busy with her reputation. This conflict, which is supposed to furnish the larger setting to the cardinal's life, goes back in the author's opinion to the period of the embassy and to Rohan's discovery that Austria was to be faithless to the obligations of the French alliance by having a share in the first partition of Poland. Although Maria Theresa acknowledged that this was acting "à la Prussienne", M. Munier-Jolain thinks she conceived an intense enmity for Rohan because he warned Louis XV. what was impending. But if her enmity had this origin, is it not strange that the Emperor Joseph and the minister Kaunitz remained on intimate terms with Rohan, for they, more than she, were responsible for the Austrian policy concerning Poland? Interesting as the author's account of the "Cardinal Collier" is, his argument is not convincing. Rohan's conduct was so habitually crooked, and his wickedness so vulgar, that it is impossible to believe him a man of superior powers.

H. E. B.

Un Impôt sur le Revenu sous la Révolution: Histoire de la "Contribution Patriotique" dans le Bas-Languedoc (Département de l'Hérault), 1789-1795, d'après des Documents Inédits. Par Pierre-Edm. Hugues. Préface de M. Paul Delombre. (Paris, Édouard Champion, 1919, pp. lxxvii, 330, 9.50 fr.) The "Contribution Patriotique" has hitherto interested students of the French Revolution chiefly because its proposal offered Mirabeau an opportunity to discredit Necker. Its success was doubtful, but money must be had, and there was little time for discussion. Mirabeau, accordingly, urged that the National Assembly accept "de confiance" the minister's project of an extraordinary income-tax. If it failed Necker would be responsible and his popularity would receive a deadly blow. But the tax has a more interesting side as a feature of