

excellent. They are taken from contemporary sources for the most part, and add materially to the story of the text.

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Histoire de France Contemporaine (LAVISSE). Tomes IV., V., *La Restauration*, and *La Monarchie de Juillet*. Par S. CHARLÉTY. Tomes VI., VII., *La Révolution de 1848: Le Second Empire*, and *Le Déclin de l'Empire et l'Établissement de la 3^e République*. Par CH. SEIGNOBOS. (Paris: Hachette. 1921. Pp. 400; 408; 426; 426.)

THESE four volumes, treating of the period of French history that lies between 1815—the restoration of the monarchy—and 1875—the establishment of the Third Republic—form a natural unit, falling into two main divisions. The co-operation between the two writers has been so happy that one is hardly conscious of the change of authorship as one passes from the account of the February days, with which the last volume of M. Charléty closes, to the description, in the first volume of M. Seignobos, of the organization of the provisional government that resulted from the Revolution of 1848. It is an excellent example of the possibilities of co-operation in historical writing.

Novelty could hardly be expected in the chronological *cadres* of the text, the matter naturally falling under the heads adopted as the titles of the various volumes, but there is much of novelty in the varied and comprehensive treatment of the subject-matter within these divisions. It is not simply a history of the political life of France through sixty eventful years, but a well-balanced, scholarly, and attractive description of the unfolding of the entire social life of the French people in its progress toward democracy. M. Charléty's chapter in volume IV., on "L'Avènement d'une Génération nouvelle", in which he deals with "Les Néo-libéraux, les Saint-Simoniens, les Ultramontains, les Romantiques, les Savants", his chapter on "Les Partis et la Politique Économique", in which he treats of "Le Système Prohibitif, la Production et l'Échange à l'Intérieur, la Condition des Personnes", and the two chapters on "La Vie Économique" and "L'Expansion Coloniale" in volume V.; M. Seignobos's treatment of the provisional government of 1848, with chapters on "L'Organisation du Gouvernement et du Suffrage", and "Les nouveaux Organes de la Vie Politique", the chapter on "La Distribution Régionale des Partis en France", the treatment of "La Société Française" under the chapter-heads, "La Population de la France, la Population Agricole, la Population Industrielle, les Classes Moyennes et les Classes Supérieures, le Mouvement Intellectuel", in volume VI., indicate the comprehensive treatment of the period.

The traditional topics—the successive revolutions, with the continuous struggle between the reactionary and progressive groups, together

with foreign affairs—are treated in an admirable spirit of detachment, described with freshness and color, and, not infrequently, from a new point of view, due to the utilization of recent monographs or of manuscript material. The treatment of foreign affairs under the Second Empire, in M. Seignobos's second volume, is an admirable piece of work, a model of well-balanced, scholarly exposition.

Not the least noteworthy thing in these volumes, where there is so much to commend, is the skill shown in sketching the principal characters of the period, or rather, in permitting them, through their acts and utterances, to reveal themselves. Louis XVIII., Charles X., Louis Philippe, Napoleon III. and his associates, Thiers, MacMahon, and Gambetta, are not mere abstractions, but living personalities that assume definite shape in the mind of the reader as he follows their acts and reads their statements of policy and opinion. The one thing that impresses one, when the whole gallery has been passed in review, is the mediocrity of the age, not one first-class character appearing on the scene. Thiers, his career viewed as a whole, falls short of greatness, and Gambetta, up to 1875, had not monopolized the stage.

These volumes were written before 1914 and one is especially struck by M. Seignobos's impartial attitude toward Germany and Bismarck. After recounting the facts connected with the famous Ems despatch, he defends Bismarck against the charge of "falsification". "This expression", he writes, "adopted by the French papers, is inexact; Bismarck was authorized to publish, not the *text* of Abeken's dispatch (whose form rendered it improper for publication) but the *refusal* of the king, and his text contains no false affirmation; the form alone was different." After describing the German methods of warfare—burning of villages, where German soldiers had been fired upon, shooting the natives, levying extraordinary contributions, forcing the leading men of a town to ride on a locomotive in order to protect a train from attack—M. Seignobos remarks that "this mixture of rigor and exploitation gave the French the impression of a barbarous war. In fact, the German soldiers, well-disciplined and peaceable by nature, committed few acts of violence upon persons, in proportion to the number of the invaders. They ate and drank much and burned all they could make use of to warm them in a very cold winter. They did little damage out of pure deviltry. The population, contrary to other wars, complained less of the excesses of individual soldiers than of the harshness of the officers."

In a semi-popular history of this kind the absence of original research can not be counted a defect. That the writer shall be acquainted with the latest and best monographic work is all that the critic can reasonably demand. More than that must be counted as good measure not called for in the bond. Such good measure is found, as might have been expected in the work of such mature scholars, both in the volumes of M. Charléty, writing from first-hand knowledge on the beginnings of

socialism, especially on the life and activities of Saint-Simon, and in those of M. Seignobos, drawing upon the manuscripts of the Archives Nationales for his studies on the regional distribution of parties in France.

The bibliographies are full and critical, containing not only the enumeration of printed secondary works and sources, but also the indication of some unpublished monographs and of important manuscript sources. Attention is frequently called to the lack of monographs on important topics, and a careful examination of the bibliography and of the dates of publication of the works makes clear how much virgin soil there is for the historian in this very important period of French history.

Not the least valuable part of the volumes is the illustrations. They consist chiefly of portraits, some of them full-page reproductions of the work of famous French artists, such as Gérard's portrait of Louis XVIII., Winterhalter's Louis Philippe, Mme. Desnos's Casimir Périer, Lafosse's striking lithograph of General Cavaignac, Flandrin's Napoleon III., and Bonnat's fine portraits of Thiers and Gambetta. We miss Charles X. and Guizot from the gallery. There are, also, many rare and interesting contemporary cartoons, contemporary sketches of historical scenes, and reproductions of famous paintings, to illustrate the art of the period.

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Deutsche Wirtschaftsgeschichte, 1815-1914. Von A. SARTORIUS VON WALTERSHAUSEN. (Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1920. Pp. x, 598. M. 50.)

A READER acquainted with Sombart's *Deutsche Volkswirtschaft im 19. Jahrhundert* will be startled to find that the present author assumes the complete lack of any comprehensive survey of the subject which he covers. How he can do this when he cites Sombart in his bibliography must be left to the German academic conscience for decision. This at least can be said for him, that the present book is considerably larger than Sombart's, is far more rich in concrete detail, and is better suited in general to the purposes of a student seeking an introduction to the recent economic history of Germany.

The author shuns the economic abstractions which make Sombart's work at the same time so attractive and so perilous. He depreciates the contributions of capitalism, and emphasizes the contributions of individual persons. He is a follower of Nietzsche and Treitschke, accepting the dominance in history of the "Wille zur Macht". Consequently he emphasizes the political element, and describes in full detail the course of public policy. He is, of course, a nationalist; the highest praise that he can bestow on the tariff of 1879 is that it was not only "national" but also "deutsch empfunden". More particularly,