

though undiplomatically, opposed the private trade interests of the members of the Council, shows more clearly in his published correspondence.

The circumstances of Bolt's deportation to England raised a number of questions concerning the legal status in India of factors who had been dismissed from the Company's service. Indeed the book illustrates exceptionally well the endless variety of questions and disputes which enabled the Company's officials, practically irresponsible, gradually to encroach on the sovereignty of the native rulers.

The book is by no means as valuable as a well-rounded account of this period in Indian history would be, but it contains interesting illustrations for such a history.

GEORGE F. ZOOK.

*D'Ulm à Iéna: Correspondance inédite du Chevalier de Gentz avec Francis James Jackson, Ministre de la Grande-Bretagne à Berlin, 1804-1806.* Par Commandant M.-H. Weil. (Paris, Payot et Cie., 1921, pp. 336, 18 fr.) Few men were possessed so completely as was Friedrich Gentz with the *cacoethes scribendi*. His active mind had an innate affinity with ink. The contemporary French Revolution and Napoleon, to both of which he was hostile, and the old order and Metternich to both of which he was attached, were large and engaging subjects for his active brain and ready pen. A bibliography of his writings and of material about him published fifteen years ago fills almost seventy pages of the *Mitteilungen des Instituts für Oesterreichische Geschichtsforschung*. Much has appeared since. Evidently the end is not in sight, for Commandant Weil has discovered in the Record Office a packet of letters not hitherto used. M. Weil is a veteran forager in archives. For this discovery, he has all the enthusiasm imparted by a discovery. The letters are by Gentz. They are addressed to Jackson, the English ambassador in Berlin. They fall within the years 1803-1806. They have not been published, therefore they are important and should be published.

The abundance of material from and about Gentz enables one to ask sharply, do these letters add anything to our knowledge about Gentz and the period? The frank answer is that the contribution is small and relatively unimportant. Jackson scarcely took the trouble to answer the letters, and tried to silence the irrepressible Gentz. Gentz was unabashed. He was bound to keep open all avenues of information and persistent in stimulating every influence against Napoleon and against the Austrian ministers who paid Gentz four thousand florins a year. Furthermore, he was anxious to the point of distress, at the possibility of losing the stipend paid him by the British ministry. He could not be suppressed.

There is interest in the letters on the confusion and despair after Mack's surrender at Ulm and after the allies' defeat at Austerlitz. The letter in which Gentz depicts what he thinks Haugwitz, the Prus-

sian negotiator, would do when face to face with Napoleon, is so uncannily correct that you might surmise Gentz, writing in professed ignorance three weeks after the events, was making a great impression on Jackson on the basis of information received, perhaps, through Hoym, the governor of Silesia. Gentz's early estimate of Metternich as the coming man is made clearer by these letters.

Many of the letters are expansions of covering notes to accompany the stream of memoirs to be transmitted to London. These memoirs are not here published. The most important are probably in print, although the editor does not identify them. His contribution is chiefly in the identification, by long and unnecessary foot-notes, of persons mentioned in the letters. Ninety pages of appendices are used to the same purpose. Thus a book is made out of material that a discriminating editor could have brought within the compass of a contribution to an historical magazine.

G. S. FORD.

*Twenty Years: Being a Study in the Development of the Party System between 1815 and 1835.* By Cyril Alington, Head Master of Eton. (Oxford, Clarendon Press; London and New York, Oxford University Press, 1921, pp. 207.) The exact scope of this essay is not easily defined. The anticipation of the reviewer that it would be a disquisition on the party system was no less happily disappointed than his fear that it might be a chronicle of political events of the conventional type. The leaders of the parties constitute the main consideration rather than the parties themselves. Sketches of their personalities, written with rapid strokes of a facile pen, and judgments of their statesmanship, given with mature and thoughtful deliberation, are strung upon a slender thread of political narrative, sufficient to provide the unity necessary for readers whose acquaintance with the period is slight, but not so long as to burden those who possess greater knowledge of this aspect of the subject.

The value of the contribution does not rest primarily upon the presentation of new facts. The author's modest disclaimer of original research, to be sure, must be taken with some qualification, for while he does not cite his authorities systematically, his text gives evidence of acquaintance with many contemporary memoirs, letters, and diaries; but it is true that he has neither discovered material hitherto unexplored nor attempted such a thorough investigation of all available evidence as might produce a great positive addition to our knowledge. The book, nevertheless, fills a place of importance in the historical literature dealing with the period. This place is so happily designated by the author, that nothing better can be done than to quote his words (p. 9):

... first impressions honestly recorded, have a value distinct from