

Mediaeval England: a New Edition of Barnard's Companion to English History. Edited by H. W. C. DAVIS. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London and New York: Oxford University Press. 1924. Pp. xxi, 632. 21 s.)

For those that have not known this delightful book in its earlier form a word of general description may be necessary. The *Companion* in the edition of 1902, and to-day, contains articles by various writers on selected phases of early English life and thought, each article being more or less chronological in arrangement and covering the period to the Tudors. The subjects chosen for discussion in this edition are: architecture, costume, heraldry, shipping, town and country life, the orders of clergy, learning and education, art, coinage, and trade. Of these, as the very brief preface states, the chapters and sections on ecclesiastical architecture, monks, friars, and secular clergy, handwriting, printed books, and coinage have been written anew. Political history is omitted, perhaps to the advantage of a book of this kind, where so brief a statement as would be necessary might become perfunctory; but the reader is much less easily reconciled to the exclusion of any discussion of early English literature, and of early English law. The illustrations, especially the reproductions made from illuminated manuscripts, add greatly to the charm of the book. A comparison inevitably suggests itself with the excellent volume on *Medieval France*, edited by Mr. Tilley, which includes chapters on geography, political history, and literature, but omits some subjects treated in the *Companion*.

Although where a large field must be covered in a few pages the discussion becomes occasionally a summary of fairly well-known facts, yet it is on the whole the virtue of the book that it avoids this evident danger, dealing with the inner meaning rather than the outward forms of medieval life. Thus the delightful chapters on heraldry, architecture, and handwriting might easily, in less skillful and sympathetic hands, have become merely technical treatises. The danger of overlapping material has also been well avoided by the editor, while one of the instructive features of the book is that it enables us to regard from unusual angles events and movements worn somewhat threadbare in their conventional treatment. The influence of the Whitby decision on handwriting and art is a case in point, and also the effect of the Black Death on art.

A serious question is raised, it may seem to some readers, by the inclusion side by side with authoritative articles representing the last word of modern scholarship, like Mr. Little's contributions, of other articles by scholars no longer living, whose work, meritorious when written, no longer contains the sum of modern research and study. Actual mistakes can be corrected, essential additional facts can be added by so learned and experienced an editor, but the point of view from which the earlier article was written might have been different if the same scholar with larger knowledge were rewriting it to-day, and there may therefore be a certain

posthumous injustice done. A great deal of water has flowed under the bridge, for example, since Mr. Warner wrote on rural life in medieval England. One writer, wrongly reputed dead, has made his vigorous protest on this general matter in a recent number of the *Literary Supplement* to the *London Times*. Changes made by the editor in the earlier articles are in no way indicated in the text. It is true that in a work of this character foot-notes would be out of place and a detriment to the appearance of the well-printed pages. The lists of books of reference given at the ends of the sections are admirable in their content, but short and necessarily, therefore, highly selective. The individual reader will often probably want to make additions. Dr. Gras's work on the *Customs Revenue*, for example, would be of interest in connection with the late Mr. Leadam's article on Trade and Commerce, and Miss Power's recent work, perhaps published too late for inclusion, in illustrating monastic life. The arguments of Mr. Loomis for an Anglo-Saxon origin of the Bayeux tapestry should perhaps be referred to in connection with that great work of art.

Criticism, while inevitable in dealing with a book that covers so many phases of English life, yet seems a little ungracious in view of the pleasure and profit so many readers will derive from *Mediaeval England*—be they students entering on their first study of medieval history or general readers of intelligence, with literary and artistic interests, or readers more learned in particular subjects seeking to enjoy the fruit of the labor of other scholars in other fields of English life and thought.

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Europe, 1450-1789. By EDWARD RAYMOND TURNER, Professor of European History in the University of Michigan. (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page, and Company. 1923. Pp. xvii, 871. \$3.50.)

THIS book of 871 pages purports to tell the story of life in Europe during the three and a half centuries lying between the fall of Constantinople and the opening of the French Revolution. The first chapter is devoted to a survey of medieval Europe in which feudalism, life on the manors, and the growth of towns are adequately dealt with, but in which is omitted all mention of the rise of the universities and the various streams of mystical and rationalistic thought that did so much to create the modern world. The chapter on the Renaissance is also largely a summary of what took place before 1453; and at least ten others of the twenty-six chapters go far back into the medieval centuries to take a long running jump at the period with which the book professes to deal.

A wide conception of history is displayed in the remaining pages that confine themselves to the years lying between the Turkish occupation of the imperial city on the Bosphorus and the meeting of the States-