

Liberal, he arrived at the point from which he should have started—for except on such questions as the ballot, church rates and religious tests at Oxford and Cambridge, Goschen was a Tory of the 1784–1832 type. He was of that type of Toryism that developed and exalted the superior person; that contemplated the ruin of England when any constitutional change was mooted; and that distrusted and dreaded any approximation to democracy.

No great measure stands to Goschen's credit except the conversion of the national debt in 1888; for he was temperamentally incapable of associating himself with what would today be described as political progress, and he had little sympathy and no touch with the people not of his class. It has needed much skill, great insight, and intimate knowledge of English politics since 1863—especially since 1884—to make the biography of such a man of permanent interest. But Mr. Elliot had all these qualifications, and his two volumes must take and long retain high rank among English political biography, not because there was much about Goschen that will attract readers, but because of the fulness with which Mr. Elliot writes the history of political parties in the last half of the nineteenth century. Goschen, acting in this part of his life with the Whigs, in the next with the Liberal-Unionists, and winding up as a Conservative, forms an attractive subject for a biographer keen on party history, and equipped to disentangle and make understood the party complications of the period from 1884 to 1903. Mr. Elliot was of the Liberal-Unionists of 1886. With the biography of Goschen as his allotted task, it would seem fortunate that he went with Hartington, Goschen, Chamberlain and Bright; for he has furnished a better, more detailed, and more complete history of the Liberal-Unionists than exists of either the Conservative or the Liberal party, and has placed at the service of students of British politics a permanently valuable contribution to the history of parties from the end of Palmerston's last administration to the division within the Unionist party due to Chamberlain's conversion to protection in 1903.

*The Mother of Parliaments.* By HARRY GRAHAM. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1911. Pp. xii, 314.)

Mr. Harry Graham's home for fifteen years has been in St. Stephen's Palace. To write the "Mother of Parliaments" has evidently been a

congenial task; and there are some internal evidences which suggest that he has proceeded with it in a leisurely way. Much work has been bestowed upon it, but without bringing it into the class of scholarly books, or warranting it being grouped among books which add something new to the subject of which they treat. It is none the less a distinctly interesting and serviceable addition to the literature of the British Parliament. It is interesting by reason of its anecdotal and personal sides, and by reason also of Mr Graham's style, which is characterized by a quiet humor which, save in Jennings's "Anecdotal History of the English Parliament," is lacking in books concerned with either the House of Lords or the House of Commons. Mr. Graham's volume is likely to be serviceable chiefly because it is the only book of recent years treating of both the Houses of Parliament, and because it contains a good sketch of the development of the Cabinet, and a really admirable history of the old and new Palaces of St. Stephen's. Here Mr. Graham, as might be expected from the environment in which he has lived so long, is at his best.

Authorities are freely cited for statements and for many of the stories of Parliament life which Mr. Graham has interwoven in his book. Proximity to the Journals of both Houses might have suggested a test of some of these stories from the wide range of biography on which Mr. Graham has drawn. But in that case the "Mother of Parliaments" might have lost some of its human interest, and some of its readableness. All the same the Sheridan incident detailed on page 208 would have read just as well if the date had been given correctly. There is no excuse for attributing an Irish bull to Sheridan in 1840 in view of the fact that Sheridan died in 1816. But here and there Mr. Graham is a little slipshod as to dates, although his aim was a "book sufficiently instructive to appeal to the student, and yet not so technical as to alarm or repel the general reader."

*The Imperial Administrative System in the Ninth Century, with a Revised Text of the Kletorologion of Philotheos.* By J. B. BURY. (British Academy, Supplemental Papers I. Oxford: University Press, 1911. Pp. 179.)

The administrative institutions of the Roman empire as organized by Diocletian and Constantine, and kept, with some modifications, down to the death of Justinian are known from sources ample enough.