

that the canal will be completed, and reasonably near the estimates of time and expense. He claims with apparent justice that no proportion between the time and money already spent and the amount of actual excavation done would hold good for the whole work, since vast sums have necessarily been expended on preliminary operations, machinery, railways, hospitals, and the entire apparatus for making canals through wild jungles, which will continue to be useful through the entire work. The engineers represented to him a year ago that the work was probably one-third done. He sees the glory and prestige of France pledged to carry out the undertaking; failure would be for France an economic Sedan. Constantly hovering in the background there appears to the author's eyes the wily New Yorker with his dollars, waiting a moment of weakness or doubt on the part of France, to buy for a song the half-finished work, taking with it commercial supremacy and the control of the South American market.

A trip to Martinique and Hayti gives opportunity for many pertinent observations on the economic conditions of these islands, but offers less that is new and interesting than the stay at the Isthmus.

GEORGE H. BAKER.

*L'Expansion coloniale de la France.* Par J. L. DE LANESSAN, député de la Seine. Paris, Félix Alcan; New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1886. — 8vo, 1006 pp.

M. de Lanessan has written a valuable book on an interesting subject. England is now the great colonial power of the world, and we complacently assume from the qualities of the English-speaking people that it was foreordained that such should be her destiny. It is by no means clear that this was a necessary result. A century and a half ago it seemed possible and even probable that India and a great part of America would be under French control. Had Pitts, instead of Pompadours, ruled France in the eighteenth century, had another Richelieu arisen a hundred years later to support the genius of such men as Dupleix and Montcalm, French governors might now administer the affairs of Hindustan, the lilies of France might float at Montreal, and the French tongue be the only one heard in Florida and Louisiana and our vast territories west of the Mississippi. Of all the evils that France suffered from the century of misrule and imbecile rule prior to the Revolution, none was more serious than the overthrow of her hopes of colonial development from the Bay of Bengal to the waters of the great lakes.

There has been no time when the great continental powers of Europe have paid more attention than at present to the establishment of colo-

nies in every part of the world. Europe is becoming crowded. A nation which has no footing outside of her territorial boundaries will be surpassed in wealth and influence by the powers whose commerce and population find openings in prosperous colonies or important foreign dependencies. The position of Germany in Europe is a commanding one, yet the German government is making every effort to plant the German flag beyond the limits of the fatherland. Italy is a new government, but her rulers are already seeking to establish outlets for Italian growth outside of the Peninsula. The colonial question in France has for some years possessed an importance second to no other. There is strong opposition to the large expenditure of men and money which has been incurred in endeavors to establish and foster French colonies; but we believe that it is the judgment of the most sagacious statesmen that if the French wish to remain a great people, what is spent in building up a colonial power is well spent.

M. de Lanessan has given in very great detail an account of the French colonial system. His book makes no pretension to a literary or an artistic presentation of the question; it is indeed not wholly unlike a comprehensive and well-arranged blue-book. But from it one can gain an accurate idea of the colonies of France, and of the policy by which they are administered. The most important are those on the north coast of Africa. There the power of France seems so firmly established that, in all probability, under her influence a great and fertile district on the south shore of the Mediterranean will be developed and drawn into intimate relations with European civilization. The conquest of Algeria was completed in 1847. The climate of the country allows Europeans to live and labor there with safety, and Algeria is now regarded, not as a colony, but as a department of France.

The French colonies are distinguished in one important respect from the English. The tendency among English colonists is to chafe at any dependent relations on the mother country. Even where they do not form a separate government, sooner or later they desire and obtain a practical autonomy. But for the French colonist the tie is much stronger that binds him to the home country. He desires to remain a Frenchman; Paris is still for him the centre; though his home may be at Senegal or Cochin China, his heart is in France. The strength of this attachment may be a reason why the French are poor colonizers, if, indeed, what is so often asserted is really a fact. But we are inclined to think that the views held by the English on this subject are to some extent erroneous. The emigration from France has been less than from England, but many causes have contributed to this result, apart from any unfitness of the French people for settlement in new lands. The emigration to Algeria has, however, been moderate, when we consider

how well adapted that climate is for Europeans. The French population is now about a quarter of a million, among a native population of three millions. Some mistakes in the administration have tended to retard colonization, and the average condition of the French people, in a prosperous country, with a very slowly increasing population, does not furnish large bodies of men eager for a change in their fortunes, such as are found in most European countries.

The French steadily add to the foothold which they have thus obtained in Algeria. In 1881 Tunis was declared to be under the protection of France; from protection to annexation is but a step, and is the usual course of a strong and civilized power dealing with a weak and semi-barbarous nation.

Second only in importance to Algeria is the great province of Cochin China, which is now a part of the French empire. Cochin China contains a population of over a million and a half, and the French hope to extend their protectorate over Annam, Camboja, and the rest of Indo-China, until twenty millions of people become tributary to France. Indo-China would not, indeed, furnish an outlet for French emigration, but it is a fertile and populous country and capable of great development. A tributary empire of such magnitude might be some compensation for the loss of India.

It is the misfortune of the French that, while they have colonies and dependencies scattered over most of the world, in comparatively few of them can Europeans pursue their ordinary labors with safety. The French rule extends over considerable portions of the west coast of Africa, to some extent over Madagascar and parts of the Red Sea, over islands in Oceanica and the West Indies, over Guiana and Pondicherry, but in few of these scattered domains can white men live in health and comfort. From the most of them France can only hope for an increased commerce, by establishing herself as the protector or ruler of native races, by building up their trade and industries, and fostering their relations with French markets. Whatever may be the result of such a policy, the question is one of interest and of great practical importance. Those who desire to investigate it will find a very full and; we have no doubt, a very accurate statement of the present condition of the French colonies in M. de Lanessan's book.

JAMES BRECK PERKINS.

*Lehrbuch des Deutschen Verwaltungsrechts.* Von Dr. KARL FREIHERR VON STENGEL, o. ö. Professor an der Universität Breslau. Stuttgart, Verlag von Ferdinand Enke, 1886.—xvi, 459 pp.

Perhaps in no branch of public law is there so great literary activity in Germany as in administrative law. Besides numerous monographs