

authority which is characteristic of the English nation, a writer must use plain and at times even strong language, or his words will not be heeded. Investigators of English history will, let us hope, continue to seek the truth and freely state it, even though certain English critics may continue to sneer at Dryasdust treatises, and to be shocked that any one dare refuse to accept all the dicta of Professor Freeman or Dr. Stubbs. In spite of such critics, scholars will rejoice at Mr. Round's valuable additions to the sum of historical knowledge, and will be pleased at the true spirit of independent research which characterizes his work.

CHARLES GROSS.

*Lancaster and York.* By SIR JAMES H. RAMSAY. Two Volumes. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1892. — xlviii, 498 ; xxxiii, 559 pp.

The purpose of the author of this work, as he states in the preface, is "to supply a verified connected narrative of the first 1500 years of the history of England"; and he adds: "The book has been composed to serve no special theory or object, save that of bringing the reader as far as possible face to face with facts." For reasons that are not specified the author has published the last portion of his work first. Sir James H. Ramsay's objections to a purely constitutional history are, that the "writer is somewhat cramped by the necessity of regarding all things from the constitutional point of view, nor can he, without transgressing the proper limits of his subject, do justice to all sides of the national story." The preface seems to promise a history of England, viewed from the political, social, economic and constitutional standpoints. We are led to expect a work conceived on the broad lines of Lecky's *History of England in the Eighteenth Century*, but disappointment awaits us.

The author has consulted all the available original authorities, both the records and the contemporary historians. He has carefully collated his facts, and has given us a connected narrative of England's history from the reign of the unfortunate Richard II (1399) to the Battle of Bosworth Field (1485). The facts are stated clearly, full details are given of parliaments, of convocations, of foreign affairs, of military campaigns, of treaties and of truces. As an example of his minute methods of working, the following passage (vol. ii, p. 3) may be cited :

The Constable de Richemont and the Count of Anjou, who were in command, began by taking Château Landon and Nemours; while another force took Cherny near Joigny. Montargis was too strong to be attacked. On the 25th August the French laid siege to Montereau; Charles joined them on the 21st September; on the 10th October the town was carried by assault; on the 22d Sir Thomas Gerrard surrendered the castle. On the 12th November Charles VII made his first entry into Paris as its King; the Dauphin Louis, then fourteen years old, rode beside him in full armour.

But, while the external life of the government is thus accurately depicted, no attempt is made to describe the undercurrents in English history, the hidden spirit pulsating through the nation. No scientific or in any manner adequate explanation is given of the gradual changes wrought in England during this century. The great constitutional changes effected under the first two Lancastrians are mentioned, but no theory is offered to explain them. The author seems unaware that the vast increase in the power of Parliament was due to the fact that Henry's title was not hereditary, but Parliamentary. When, moreover, an explanation of events or a criticism of any person is given, it is as a rule borrowed from Bishop Stubbs. Thus the only critical comment on the Parliament of 1406 is a quotation from Stubbs, "that it may be taken as 'an exponent of the most advanced principles of mediæval constitutional life.'" Creighton is drawn upon for the summary of the character and abilities of the Emperor Sigismund. While the work of collecting facts and materials seems to have been independent, Ramsay's conclusions and reflections are borrowed (*vide* vol. ii, pp. 24, 49, 78, 119, 159, 320, 492, 553-4).

The work is well printed and contains numerous plans and maps. Another excellent feature is the outline of financial history appended to the account of each reign. Though fragmentary, these outlines are of considerable value, especially to the student of public finance, since an attempt is made to classify the sources of the public revenue and the objects of expenditure.

In his life of Voltaire, Morley says: "Three kinds of men write history: the gazetteer or annalist, the statesman and the philosopher. The annalist's business is to investigate and record events, and his highest merits are clearness, accuracy and simplicity." Sir James H. Ramsay can claim no higher rank than that of an annalist, but he undoubtedly possesses all those attributes that Mr. Morley mentions as an annalist's highest merits. He is clear, simple and above all accurate. But history, since the days of Voltaire and Montesquieu,

has passed out of the mental grasp of an annalist. In the nineteenth century the work of a chronicler, however meritorious, can never attain a higher position than that of a book of reference — a book in which one can with perfect confidence verify dates and the *minutiae* of events. Ramsay's book, however, lacks the chief and all-essential requisite of a book of reference — an index.

GEORGE LOUIS BEER.

*English Trade and Finance, chiefly in the Seventeenth Century.*

By W. A. S. HEWINS, B.A., University Extension Lecturer on Economic History; late lecturer to the Toynbee Trust. London, Methuen & Co., 1892. — xxxv, 174 pp.

When the present writer, in conversation with a distinguished English economist, once remarked upon the fact that in University Extension classes in England there seemed to be some demand for economic history and scarcely any for economic theory, he was told that this was because it was easier to find satisfactory lecturers in history than in theory. A young man, my authority went on to say, can get up and tell an audience about the fourteenth or seventeenth century, and there is no one to contradict him; whereas, if he discourses on wages and profits the acute manufacturer and shrewd artisan are ready to catch him up at every turn. This was an explanation which, though not without a touch of irony, probably contained a largish grain of truth. There certainly was a time, and not so very long ago, when one or two treatises were given an unquestioning allegiance, and some half dozen stock ideas were stated and restated *ad nauseam* by those few persons who concerned themselves with the subject. But those days are passing away; it must be comforting to the theorists to find that there is now beginning to be almost as much divergence of opinion about the village community as about value. And, having regard to the depressing opinion above quoted, it ought to be even a little more cheering when the criticism of current statements comes from an Extension lecturer himself, as in the present instance.

Mr. Hewins describes his purpose as that of "supplementing, from contemporary authorities, the larger works . . . which are usually read by the [Extension] students." Accordingly he assumes the amount of knowledge obtainable from such books as Rogers, Toynbee and Cunningham's first edition, and gives us a number of critical essays on the monopolies, the trading companies, the con-