

chapters are models of concise, fast-moving, realistic military narrative.

Original manuscript sources were excluded from the author's consideration. Nevertheless, working from standard secondary works and a wealth of printed source material he carefully sifted the work of his predecessors, achieved impressive accuracy, and compiled a very valuable glossary of military terms and a useful bibliography.

All this is not to say that "The War of the Revolution" is without error. Not even the painstaking work of the editor has eliminated a number of minor factual errors which for the professional may tend to mar the shining surface of this excellent book. While the author evaluated his sources wisely, he sometimes failed to go far enough or to go to the ground itself. For example, had he considered all the documents he would not have written that North Carolina seems to have been the first object of the 1780 British expedition against the South. Had he gone to the ground, he would not have written that General Daniel Morgan posted his reserves behind the "rear eminence" at the Cowpens battlefield and later reformed there, for no hill exists on the field and none ever did. This is, however, a common misapprehension; most of the author's sources, even contemporary ones, speak of the eminence or "ridge." Similar errors have been perpetuated by the author elsewhere when following accepted sources. But, they are usually trivial and do not detract from a fine piece of historical reporting.

Mr. Alden has been scrupulous in his editorship, making no major alterations in the author's original manuscript but correcting obvious mistakes he is sure that Mr. Ward himself would have caught in final draft. He has written a modest and becoming introduction and has added an important chapter on the war beyond the Alleghanies written in a style which blends pleasantly with the author's own. Altogether, Mr. Ward's legacy is a rewarding book, entertaining, comprehensive, and sure to win enthusiastic readers.

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S
DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 973)

RUPERT HART DAVIS:
HUGH WALPOLE

Hugh was fated to endure the prolonged ordeal of the Battle of London in which noise, terror, lack of sleep gradually wore down the strongest physiques. His temperament, always nervous, was subjected to a series of ever-greater shocks.

The Testiness of Prosperity



—From "The Age of Paradox."

"The London Dustman," by Beard.

THE AGE OF PARADOX. By John W. Dodds. New York: Rinehart & Co. 509 pp. \$6.

By GEORGE DANGERFIELD

AFTER finishing this account of the English decade 1841-1851, I rather wished that it had been called "The Age of Little Nell," not "The Age of Paradox." It was a period when people were very tearful about fictions, but strangely dry-eyed about realities. That it was more paradoxical than any other decade in the nineteenth century has not been proved by John W. Dodds, and is perhaps not susceptible of proof. The book itself, however, is such a fascinating congregation of facts and pictures that it would be invidious to quarrel with the title.

It is not only a fascinating book, it is also an unnerving one. The England which sprawls across Mr. Dodd's pages was at the mercy of a factory system which had gotten completely out of control. As production increased, so did poverty. In an atmosphere of famine and cholera, despair and displacement, the principle of laissez-faire experienced its heyday and prepared its graveyard.

For those who could afford it, of course, life went on much as usual. They probably did not realize that the times were growing more restless, and they were comfortably unaware of the fact that they were growing more ugly. But so it was. The individualism of the Romantic Movement was being choked to death by the individualism of the Age of Steam. As the railways and bridges leaped across the coun-

tryside men told themselves that mind had conquered matter. The result was a blasphemous irreverence for environment. The notion that esthetics—as, for example, town-planning—could play a vital part in the national life would have seemed absurd. Undrained and unventilated, the new industrial towns sprang up, a mere proliferation of pig-sties; and here the "industrious classes" sickened and died. Of all such objects as public buildings, park statues, furniture, and railway stations, it was demanded only that they should be large and showy and that their functions should be immodestly concealed by a mass of rococo decoration.

In effect "The Age of Paradox" is a grand portrait of Philistia before it settled down and grew stuffy. It is a record of such ideas, personalities, and events as "engaged the interest and attention of the ordinary sensual Englishman." This ordinary sensual Englishman, occasionally identified as "Mr. Roe," turns out to be a moderately well-to-do member of the urban middle classes. If the book makes no journey into intellectual England, that is because "Mr. Roe" presumably himself was profoundly unintellectual. His revolutionary cravings (for he was a revolutionary) were amply satisfied by the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, and when the Chartists moved on London in '48 he became a special constable. He talked reform, but it was moral reform that chiefly interested him. He had not yet been shaken by Darwin's "Origin of Species" nor consoled by Herbert Spencer's "survival of the fittest." He was not sure that he was fit nor at all convinced that he would survive, haunted as he was by bailiffs and bill-collectors.

Primarily, here is a picture of the Victorian middle classes when they were still untamed; when they still responded to the violence around them with some inner violence of mind; when they had not invented a common drab dress or a common language. Pious, earnest, energetic, individualistic, sentimental, grotesque, insecure—they crowd together on the verges of the mid-nineteenth century, proclaiming their gospel of industrial supremacy and world peace.

A little later, they became the rulers of England.

George Dangerfield is the author of "The Strange Death of Liberal England," "The Bengal Mutiny," and "The Era of Good Feeling."

Into the Light

THE SHORTER CAMBRIDGE MEDIEVAL HISTORY. Two Volumes.
By C. W. Previté-Orton. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1202 pp. \$12.50.

By A. C. KREY

THE Cambridge History has won for itself the enviable distinction of serving as the standard authoritative reference in its field. Begun somewhat modestly with the Modern History Series, almost exclusively by British scholars for the English public, the whole conception of the work was eventually expanded in the Medieval Series to include other scholars, wherever located. Though World War I prevented the full realization of this program, the aim of the series, now supplemented by the Ancient History and the Economic History in progress, has been achieved. In their entirety the Cambridge Histories have thus established themselves as the most scholarly and comprehensive works of their kind in the world.

In the two volumes here under review, the Syndics of the Cambridge Press have ventured upon an experiment to meet the changing tempo of the age. Was it possible, they asked themselves, to condense the eight bulky volumes of the original Medieval History into a shorter work which could be read not only as a continuously interesting narrative but also as an inclusive and reliable guide to the period? This problem, a large order in anyone's calculation, was put to the late Professor C. W. Previté-Orton, himself one of the principal editors of the original work, who then completed the present manuscript before death overtook him. Philip Grierson, at the request of the Syndics, then saw the volumes through the press, making only such changes as current scholarship seemed to require: and as a further step in the direction of their purpose, the Syndics also asked Dr. S. H. Steinberg to provide appropriate illustrations.

In undertaking to accomplish this ambitious task, these scholars might easily have come forth with either a condensed mass of undigested fact or with too incomplete an account, in an effort to maintain the interest of the general reader. Only rarely, however, does an unilluminated list of names and events appear, and the editors, well

aware that remote facts do not speak for themselves, have usually tried to supply expert judgment on the meaning of those facts. In addition, though the general arrangement of topics does not slavishly follow the original, almost no important area of interest has been omitted. From Persia to Ireland, from Egypt to Iceland, and from Morocco to the Ural Mountains, with occasional glimpses into inner Asia, no region has been overlooked, and all receive attention over the whole span of time from 305 A.D. to 1492.

Topically, the shorter History somewhat accentuates the characteristics of the original work. Political and ecclesiastical affairs receive preponderant notice. Cultural, economic, and social history, though not altogether



disregarded, are accorded comparatively scant treatment; the relative neglect of these elements constitutes the chief defect of the present work, as it also does of the original.

This deficiency is corrected in part by the illustrations, which form perhaps the most arresting feature of these volumes. The pictures are thoroughly integrated with the text and, to single out but one instance where they add greatly to the material involved, they include a representation of a coin which commemorates the expulsion of the English from France in the year 1453, supplying a concrete symbol to signalize the mystifying close of the Hundred Years War. Many of these illustrations will be new even to seasoned scholars in the field. Furthermore, the curious will be able to decipher with the aid of reading glasses (high powered in the case of the half-page illustration of Magna Carta) nearly all the inscriptions and small details. To achieve so much telling illustration, rather heavy paper has been used, but the satisfied reader will no doubt forget the consequent weight of the volumes in his pleasure at their contents.

The reference value of this shorter history has been likewise enhanced by numerous genealogical tables and lists of emperors and popes, as well as by helpful sketch-maps and a table of dates. One important omission is the absence of bibliographical aids to further reading, contained in the original work. Specialists will hardly be satisfied, as is to be expected, with the summary treatment which many important events have received in these volumes, but even such scholars will find much of value for them also in this shorter version of the Medieval History.

Faith Ruptured

THE DEVILS OF LOUDUN. By Aldous Huxley. New York: Harper & Bros. 340 pp. \$4.

By ANNE FREMANTLE

WHATEVER individual preferences may be, no one can deny that as creator, as critic, and as a contemplative Aldous Huxley is among the most urbanely civilized of writers living. And among the most profoundly concerned with the human condition.

To demonstrate his tightly woven, skilfully documented study of what he calls man's urge to self-transcendence in all its three-dimensional aspects—upward, downward, and horizontal—Mr. Huxley has gone back to France in the seventeenth century in which he set "Grey Eminence," his only biography. In "The Devils of Loudun" he has taken various individuals and has composed a group centered around Urbain Grandier, sometime vicar of Loudun, burnt as a sorcerer, and Soeur Jeanne des Anges, Ursuline prioress, who claimed him as the cause of her possession by seven devils.

Urbain Grandier, a contemporary of Corneille and Descartes and, like them, a pupil of the Jesuits, was appointed at the age of twenty-seven to a Jesuit living, though a secular priest. From the first Grandier made more enemies than friends in the divided city (it was more than half Huguenot). Among his enemies the most disastrously important was the Prior of Coussay, later to be Bishop of Luçon and called Armand-Jean du Plessis de Richelieu, who did not forget to concern himself directly with Grandier's doom.

Other, more local enemies were Madam Trinchant; the public prosecutor; Canon Mignon, Trinchant's nephew; Madam Adam; the apothecary; Pierre Menuau, the King's advocate, whose intended bride was another of Grandier's mistresses; and De la Rochepozay, his bishop. Grandier's few local friends were entirely convinced of his innocence, as was Jean D'Armagnac, Governor of Loudun. The Jesuits did their best to befriend their erstwhile pupil, and the people of Loudun, who, like Grandier were against Richelieu, admired their pastor's superb eloquence.

Wining and wenching, Grandier soon antagonized Capuchins and Carmelites and united the clergy and bourgeoisie solidly against him. His enemies found their weapon in Soeur Jeanne des Anges. Only twenty-five,

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