

THE PROGRESS OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH DURING THE SESSION 1891-92.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH in its modern and enlightened meaning is a term which may be applied to the scientific production of historical literature at large. It is no longer necessarily confined to the collection of materials from the excavations carried out by what was once most unfairly regarded as mere journeyman labour, but may actually include the whole process of the compilation of a modern historical text-book. This is at present the furthest point to which the definition can be safely carried. It is unreasonable to insist, as many students would do, that only those writers who are capable of discovering and interpreting for themselves the whole of the original evidence which exists for the elucidation of a given subject are qualified for the title of historian—the large number of works based on that ‘notable foundation hearsay,’ or on the opinions of former writers, or which are apparently evolved from the author’s ‘inner consciousness,’ being relegated to the department of ‘Belles Lettres.’ It is possible for an historical text-book to be valuable for its information, and at the same time to give pleasure to the general reader by the beauty of its style, and those who are never weary of exposing the errors of certain historians of a past generation and of our own day ought not to forget that formerly, as now, the two methods of historical composition flourished side by side, and that each has been found helpful to the pursuit of historical studies.

At the same time it will be evident that for the present purpose the progress of historical research may most con-

veniently be traced in the literary operations directed by the Government departments, in the transactions of the historical societies, and in those recent individual publications, periodical or otherwise, which have advanced new and important views, or have helped to throw fresh light on the leading topics of history.

The laborious results of the state-aided research connected with the Rolls Series of Chronicles and Memorials, and with the Calendars of State Papers, are rightly regarded as the most important feature of the annual production of historical literature in this country, and here, as was indicated in a former notice, we see the scheme of these national publications passing through a state of transition, or rather reverting to an older and highly honoured precedent. The long series of monastic Chronicles is drawing rapidly to its close, and there seems but small prospect of any continuation of the series in a kindred form. The publication of the monastic Chartularies, though in itself a highly desirable work, is one that can be most effectually performed by the enterprise of local societies, and there is now a very general wish for the continuation of the old series of Record Publications, which, under the care of editors like Palgrave, Hunter, and Hardy, have been helpful almost beyond belief to three generations of historical students, but which have now become almost as inaccessible as the originals themselves. The transition above referred to is well seen in the case of two forthcoming publications of the existing Rolls Series, each of which has taken the novel form of an edition of a public record. It is not, however, either desired or expected by historical students that the paltry grant hitherto conceded for a national work (which with all its imperfections has brought us more distinction in the eyes of Europe than a hundred-fold expenditure upon a single war-ship, or the injudicious purchase of a single work of art), should be allowed to lapse. But if a new series of much-needed Record Publications is sanctioned in the immediate future, it should not be forgotten that the Rolls Series first fell into disrepute owing to the miserable economy

which allowed the later volumes to be disfigured by flimsy binding and a most discreditable print. It would seem, indeed, as though the quality of the editorial work gradually deteriorated under these depressing conditions, whilst the still more pernicious regulation which necessitates the printing of such works as these in disjointed fragments of a few sheets at a time has also been responsible for a good many of the complaints with which we are unfortunately only too familiar.

With the exception of the last instalment of Mr. Owen Pike's admirable edition of the Year-books, with its noticeable dissertation on the term 'Merchet,' no work of very great importance has been published in this series during the past session, but the very interesting controversy as to the identity and date of the so-called Matthew of Westminster, which was revived by the late Dr. Luard's masterly edition of the 'Flores Historiarum,' has been continued by Dr. Liebermann (a Corresponding Member of this Society), by M. Bémont, and by other distinguished scholars. Some five or six other works are already in the press, including Parliamentary Petitions of Edward I., edited by Professor Maitland, and the famous Red Book of the Exchequer, edited by Mr. Hubert Hall, both Fellows of this Society.

In the Rolls Series of Calendars several well-known works have been advanced another stage. A very successful Calendar of Patent Rolls of the reign of Edward III. has been published under the immediate supervision of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, and progress has been made with the Calendars of the Close Rolls and of the Papal *Regesta* in the Vatican. At the same time a number of other calendars as well as indexes and lists have been continued or begun by the direction of the Deputy Keeper, whose admirable project for a comprehensive series of Record lists and publications is set forth in a recent report.

Amongst the valuable and interesting Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission recently published, that in which the first portion of the Fortescue and Portland MSS. are described is especially noteworthy. Several important reports

on municipal and private collections are in progress. When we add that the example of the English Record Office has been steadily followed by the respective offices in Scotland and Ireland, some idea may be formed of the assistance given to research by the departments of the modern State.

The increased number of historical students whose attendance at the Public Record Office and at the British Museum is recorded in the official returns bears witness to the improved methods of historical research, and the same activity is witnessed in the local or special institutions where historical materials are to be gathered. Moreover, the visits of historical students to foreign Libraries and Archives are now of very frequent occurrence, and are almost invariably attended with both profitable and pleasurable results. This is largely due to the liberal concessions made by the authorities in favour of *bonâ-fide* students, and the useful intercourse which has resulted therefrom is still further facilitated by the interchange of views and the diffusion of enlightened criticism effected by the great historical journals of several European countries.

At no previous period certainly was the study of history so cosmopolitan in character as it has become in the present day. The Imperial Government has undoubtedly made a considerable contribution to the progress of historical research, but it is doubtful if it has accomplished more, relatively to its means, than certain Colonial Governments. The Dominion of Canada, for instance, has continued with unabated vigour the collection and transcription of all MS. materials relating to its own history which are to be found in European Archives, and the Governments of New South Wales and Tasmania are not only engaged in the same direction, but the former is already publishing some of the results of recent discoveries in the form of an official History of the Colony.

The learned societies have continued to bear the brunt of the labour and expense inseparable from the processes of modern historical research. Amongst those bodies which confine their energies to the publication of historical texts,

the Camden Society has produced a valuable contribution to Irish History in the Essex Papers for the years 1672–9. The Pipe Roll Society, under the presidency of the Bishop of Oxford, has produced new Year Rolls of the Exchequer, which throw a flood of light upon constitutional and family history in the twelfth century, and the Selden Society can claim another creditable but rather laboured edition of the Judicial Rolls. Both these societies have new and important works in the press, in which we shall again see Professor Maitland's master-hand. The great north-country societies continue to produce valuable works, amongst which the Register of Selby, published by the Yorkshire Archæological Association, may be mentioned. The Society of Antiquaries is about to publish (in vol. liii.) Lord Dillon's remarkable monograph on the English occupation of Calais in the sixteenth century, a reconstruction of the ancient English colony and its surroundings, which could only have been accomplished by years of patient labour amongst contemporary documents. The discovery and identification of the Royal Cup presented by James I. to the Spanish envoy is one of those object-lessons which are often more instructive than the most exhaustive essays. It opens the way for a new venture in English history dealing with the constitution of the King's House from the earliest times. The Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society of Literature have each brought forward questions intimately connected with the scientific study of history, while the Royal Historical Society itself, apart from the record of a year's work which appears in the preceding pages, has reported progress with more than one important publication.

- At no previous period have historical studies been more carefully fostered, or more diligently and successfully pursued by scholars connected with the great English Universities. It is true that the progress of actual research has not been greatly assisted by many of these contributions, but the historical publications of the University Presses have attained a very high standard, while although many students may be enticed from the paths of research by the blandishments of

journalism, and of the serial system of historical publication, in which the enterprising publisher caters for the supposed wants of the general reader, there have been some notable exceptions. Two historical workers of real promise have appeared during the past session. Mr. A. G. Little has published, through the Oxford Historical Society, a history of the Grey Friars at Oxford, which shows a fine appreciation of the real sources of history, and Mr. W. A. J. Archbold has placed to the credit of the younger School of History at Cambridge an excellent sketch of the religious houses of Somersetshire.

The Oxford Historical Society has never done better work than it is doing now, and it is pleasant to observe that it enjoys the active co-operation of many who are not professed students of antiquity. The lately published history of Oxford Colleges was the result of a very far-reaching movement in favour of the study of manuscript origins which has perhaps been stimulated by the notices of early academic life discovered amongst some recent publications of the Historical MSS. Commission.

English corporations, ecclesiastical and municipal, have made good use of the assistance afforded by the commission in question for the purpose of arranging their still unclassified manuscript treasures, just as the independent departments of the Government readily submit their official papers to the inspection of the Parliamentary Committee appointed for this purpose. We hear no complaints of the concealment or withdrawal of documents, such as formed the ground for a recent spirited remonstrance on the part of the Garde-général of the National Archives of France. We even find that a good deal of the work of re-arrangement has been done by private enterprise, as in the recent case of the Corporations of Nottingham and Gloucester, and now by the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, whose famous registers are being printed by authorised scholars. Winchester, Wells, York, and Salisbury, amongst other churches, are fortunate in the antiquarian zeal of their collegiate clergy. In the case of the first-named

town, the annals of the famous school have been also published, whilst a still more minute investigator has endeavoured to throw light upon the pleasant relations existing between the scholars and the French prisoners-of-war in the days of the good Dr. Lemprière.

Apart from the subvention of the State, or the association of historical workers, the production of historical literature has been especially facilitated in the present day by the co-operation of the ablest writers in serial publications. A very considerable addition has been made during the past session to the already long list of 'English Statesmen,' 'Rulers of India,' 'Men of Action,' and the like, as well as to the convenient 'Epochs of History' and 'Stories of the Nations,' which are especially serviceable for the study of prescribed periods. There is still a striking deficiency, as the President of the Royal Historical Society pointed out in his recent address, in the department of general history, but younger students may be considered highly fortunate in the possession of two such suggestive text-books as Mr. Gardiner's 'Student's History' with its companion Atlas, and the new edition of the late Mr. Green's 'Short History of the English People.' Abroad, too, we observe the same improvement in the character of historical text-books. Nothing could be more admirable than M. Monod's 'Cours Complet d'Histoire.' Dr. Lamprecht's new 'German History,' of which the first part has lately appeared, promises well for the study of social phenomena. In Holland, also, a comprehensive national history is in progress by Professor Blok, and Dr. Brugmans is engaged in original researches for a more recent period of history. The Dictionaries of National Biography and Economic Terms pursue their successful courses, and we even hear of a great Social History of England which is to be prepared with the help of many able hands. In periodical literature, too, the 'English Historical Review' and the Economic Quarterlies have rendered services, the value of which can hardly be estimated in our own day. Local history, especially that of the English counties, has not been

very strongly represented during the past year, but naval and military historians have combined to keep their special subjects in the front rank of modern research. Professor Laughton has re-written the lives of great English seamen in the 'Dictionary of National Biography'; a new life of Rodney has appeared; the researches of Mr. Oppenheim in naval history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries have attracted considerable attention; Major Edye has made progress with an exhaustive 'History of the Royal Marines'; and Colonel Davis is continuing his history of the famous Tangiers regiment into the period of Sedgemoor and Boynewater. These are but a sample of recent research in this department of history.

The history of the English Colonies has certainly received its fair share of attention. Another volume of Mr. McCall Theal's admirable 'History of South Africa' has appeared for the Napoleonic period. Mr. Darnell Davis is visiting the Continental Archives in search of MSS. relating to the early history of the West Indies. Mr. Lucas has fairly rounded off his luminous handbook to the British Colonies. Another work of newer interest is that just completed and shortly to be issued by Mr. Robert Chalmers on the history of Colonial Currency, compiled from original State Papers, some samples of which have lately appeared in the 'Dictionary of Economic Terms.' In close connection with our Colonial history we have to note some further valuable researches including a collection of documents relative to the Spanish Colony of Cuba, the correspondence of Hessian officers during the War of Independence, M. Garnault's history of French commerce and colonisation in the eighteenth century, and an edition of the French Consular Despatches from Algiers. There has also been the usual mass of ephemeral writings concerning the European colonies in Africa and still more in connection with the international reunion at Chicago, including more than one life of Christopher Columbus. Amongst the above, however, one work of real utility has been completed, Sir Lambert Playfair's share in a forthcoming bibliography of

Algeria, which will form a most convenient index to many hundreds of manuscript volumes amongst the foreign correspondence of the last three centuries. Similarly Prince Roland Bonaparte has prepared a valuable bibliography of Corsica, and M. Manno one of Savoy. Indeed, the experience of recent years has proved that the conscientious bibliographer is one of the historian's most useful allies. Another is undoubtedly the topographer, who is capable of performing his work on philological principles, but, with the notable exception of Mr. W. H. Stevenson, few English scholars can pretend to the excellence achieved in this respect by the pupils of the *École des Chartes* and other French specialists. Another of M. Longnon's wonderful local studies, on the topography of La Marne, has lately appeared, and M. Brun-Durand's '*Dictionnaire de la Drome*' has a still wider historical interest.

Amongst Oriental scholars, apart from the national importance of such works as the Hon. G. Curzon's '*Persia*,' and Mr. Baden Powell's '*Land Systems of British India*,' the great event of the past session has been the imposing Congress of European and Asiatic scholars, in which the Royal Historical Society was fitly represented by its President and by Professor Rhys Davids. The recent learned researches into the history of the mediæval Jews have been actively continued both in this country and in Germany. Amongst other works in the department of ancient history, the excitement caused by the publication of the British Museum Aristotle has scarcely yet subsided. Professor Gardner has published some new chapters on Greek history, and a further instalment of the late Professor Freeman's monumental work on the history of Sicily has appeared; whilst Professor Middleton has produced a learned work on the Remains of Ancient Rome, and M. Chas. Mijatovich, a Corresponding Member of this Society, has written an excellent history of Constantine the Great. The historical work of the year has, however, been most remarkable in the wide field of mediæval history. In England we have had a new and most important theory

of the origin of Knight Service by Mr. J. H. Round, together with a critical study of the reign of King Stephen by the same author. M. Vinogradoff's great work on Villainage in England sounds the first note of a revolt from the historical view with which Mr. Seebohm has familiarised us. In Germany Dr. Liebermann's masterly essay on the Anglo-Norman laws and institutes has excited the admiration of all mediæval scholars. Several literary editions of great historical value have recently appeared, including the Song of Lewes, the Song of Dermot, *Béowulf*, the Romances of Eustace the Monk and of Guy of Warwick, M. Paul Meyer's admirable edition of Guillaume le Maréchal, and the edition by Herr Pannenberg of the *Carmen de bello Saxonico*, whilst Professor Mayor and Mr. Lumby's great edition of Bede's Ecclesiastical History is still in progress. In addition to the foundation of a new English Calendar of Historical Documents in the Vatican, we find in France that M. Langlois and his colleagues have produced further instalments of the *Regesta* of mediæval popes. While in Germany (while Dr. Löwenfeld's death will be severely felt) Herr Langen has written learnedly on the history of the Papacy from Nicholas I. to Gregory VII., and Herr Rodenberg on the intervention of Innocent IV. in the Sicilian question. The registers of the ancient margrave of Baden, extending back to the eleventh century, have been published at Innsbruck, and Dr. Hirsch has written on the reign of Louis VII. of France. Indeed a wonderful activity has been manifested throughout the whole of Europe in the publication of mediæval State Papers. Again in Scandinavia, in Silesia, and in Finland, *codices diplomatici* and similar collections have been skilfully edited ; but to English students the subject of M. Bémont's great edition of the Gascon Rolls, announced in the preceding pages, will have a peculiar interest. Besides, few foreign students are more highly esteemed in this country.

In France quite a considerable number of local studies have appeared, connected with parliamentary, clerical, and academic institutions. Amongst these may be mentioned

M. Guilhermoz's 'Parliamentary Procedure in the Fourteenth Century,' M. Coyecque's documents relating to the Hôtel Dieu, documents relative to the history of the Vosges, M. Guérin's extracts from the Trésor des Chartes relating to Poitou, and the continuation of the chartulary of the University of Paris. There have also appeared some original contributions to fiscal history: in France, M. Jacqueton's review of financial history from Charles VII. to Francis I., a period which is almost parallel with Sir James Ramsay's researches in England, where Mr. Hubert Hall's 'Antiquities of the Exchequer,' and Mr. Ridgeway's 'Origin of Metallic Currency and Weight Measures' have also been published.

In Economic History proper the second volume of Professor Cunningham's great 'History of Industry and Commerce' will probably have appeared before the opening of a new session. A second volume of Professor Ashley's small but useful work is also in active progress, and a posthumous work by the late Thorold Rogers has appeared, besides essays by other writers on the English Guilds. Both in periodical literature and in the social department of General History, economic subjects have attracted increased attention and respect.

English History has also been greatly indebted to the researches of the legal antiquary, the works edited for the Rolls Series by Mr. L. O. Pike, and for the Selden Society by Professor Maitland being especially valuable. In Germany, of course, great attention has been given to the same subject, which has lately begun to be studied with success in America.

Next in importance to these mediæval studies may be placed the numerous contributions to the History of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods. In England another History of the French Revolution has appeared. Mr. Oscar Browning has published a volume of original essays, and is engaged in editing for the Royal Historical Society a volume of State Papers for the period of the Second Coalition.

Abroad, M. Rubins has published some studies in the 'History of Denmark' during the critical years 1807-14. A 'Reign of King Louis Napoleon' has been published in the Netherlands. The 'History of the Revolutionary War in Luxembourg' has been written by MM. Zelle and Knaff. Dr. Åberg has edited in Sweden the diplomatic correspondence of that country during the Napoleonic period. In France the Revolutionary documents of the Haute Vienne, and the debates of the Jacobin Club, are most instructive, while a history of 'Lettres de Cachet' is promised by M. Funck-Brentano, the learned cataloguer of the MSS. of the Bastille, and author of a new version of the battle of Courtrai (1302), the French Bannockburn. M. Parfait's 'Life of Marceau' will interest every reader, and M. Chuquet reviews the history of the Revolutionary wars. In Russia M. Tratchevsky continues the publication of the diplomatic correspondence between Russia and France for the years 1803-4, and M. Tatistcheff is working at a slightly earlier period, and Count Weil has described the great campaign of 1814 from military despatches at Vienna. To these may be added the reports in the Legislative Assembly since 1787, the journal of a burgess of Valence 1789-99, and Count Boulay de la Meurthe's edition of the documents relative to the Concordat 1800-1; while M. Koren is investigating the Scandinavian relations with England during the Napoleonic period.

At the same time, earlier and later periods of European history have not been wholly neglected. In England that of the Tudors has been further illustrated by the three great Calendars of Domestic State Papers, Privy Council Acts, and Venetian correspondence, while as a compensation for the abeyance of the Foreign Calendar, a series of remarkable State Papers relating to the Armada is being edited for the Rolls Series by Major Martin Hume, who was recently elected a Fellow of this Society. There have been some new views advanced as to the fate of the Princes in the Tower, and the divorce of Catharine of Aragon, and in a slightly earlier period fresh contributions to the story of Warwick the King-

maker, as in France to that of Jeanne d'Arc. Abroad, an important estimate of the foreign policy of Louise of Savoy is furnished by M. Jacqueton. Signor Romano's description of Charles V.'s intervention in Italy is based on contemporary documents, like the Spanish collections lately published to illustrate the relations between Philip II. and his German subjects. Dr. Hergenroether's publications from the *Regesta* of Leo X. are singularly valuable, as also are Herr Schwarz's documents relative to the reign of Maximilian II. Professor Beesly's estimate of Queen Elizabeth, and Mr. Stebbing's 'Life of Raleigh' have continued to excite attention, and Mr. J. W. Clark at Cambridge has issued a well-timed text of the charters of Elizabeth and James I. to the University.

The most noticeable publication in the Stuart period has naturally been Mr. S. R. Gardiner's marvellous 'History of the Great Rebellion.' A new 'History of Mary Stuart' has been written by M. Martin Philippson of Brussels. Mr. Warner's edition of the 'Nicholas Papers for the Camden Society' and 'Lady Verney's Memoirs of the Verney Family' are valuable contributions to contemporary history, and amongst works of a more miscellaneous character, Creighton's 'History of Epidemics,' Mr. Jacob's edition of 'James Howell's Letters,' M. Jusserand's correspondence of the Comte de Cominges, and Sir T. Longmore's excellent biography of Richard Wiseman, serjeant-surgeon to Charles II., should not be overlooked. The history of the eighteenth century has been illustrated by such works as Mr. Armstrong's 'Elizabeth Farnese,' M. Jules Flammermont's correspondence of Count de Mercy-Argenteau with Prince Kaunitz, the 'Wars of the Reign of Louis XV.' by Count Pajol, a German history of the military campaigns of Prince Eugene, 'Memoirs of Marshal Villars' by the Marquis de Vogüé, memoirs of the Marquis de Souches for the period of the war of the Spanish Succession, a journal of the campaign of Dettingen, edited by M. du Teil and the Duc de Broglie's essay on the 'Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.' Mr. B. F. Stevens has issued further important instalments of his series of facsimiles of American

documents in European Archives, and he has also been engaged upon original researches connected with the history of the Secret Service during the earlier part of the reign of George III., some passages of which were communicated to this Society in December last. Quite recently, also, a work on the Secret Service under William Pitt has appeared, which, also, displays evidences of special research. In connection with American history, Mr. Carson's account of the 'Supreme Court of the United States' and Hale's 'Story of Massachusetts' may be mentioned. Mr. Kingsford's 'History of Canada' is in active progress, and the usual number of works of local or family interest based upon English State Papers have appeared, together with an instructive history of historical writing in America. In Spain, a biography of the famous Admiral of the Indies, Don Cristobal Colón, has been completed by a member of the same family.

In the Netherlands the Government publishes useful reports on documents relating to the history of Holland, which are preserved in Russian and Austrian Archives. Again, the treatise of M. A. Le Roy on the Bull 'Unigenitus' is noticeable. Von Ompteda's biography of a Hanoverian officer in English pay is interesting, while, curiously enough, Colonel Fyler has been engaged in this country in examining the despatches of the English officers in Hanover, for his history of the 50th Regiment.

The Warren Hastings controversy has lately proved rather one-sided, and Sir John Strachey's refutation of the charges connected with the Rohilla war is very conclusive. In the history of the present century we notice the appearance of a number of diplomatic compilations, all of which are not of the same excellence as the concluding volume of Sir E. Hertslet's well-known 'Map of Europe by treaty.' The famous Talleyrand Memoirs have by no means satisfied the general expectation, but the Duke of Orleans' military history has the value of an oral tradition. The history of Servia has been already pleasantly told by Madame Mija-

to vitch in a series of chapters based on contemporary State Papers, and now this able lady is engaged in fresh researches for the purpose of a modern supplement. In Spain a collection of documents for the reign of Isabella II. has been printed, and in Italy a history of naval warfare by Signor Randaccio, which, however, is chiefly valuable for a description of the remarkable development of the Italian Navy during the last half-century.

There are of course many regrettable losses and some apparent deficiencies to be set off against this admirable record. In the first place, the mortality among the older school of historians has scarcely been equalised by the promise of the rising generation, and in the second place the fashion for histories of any magnitude seems to be going out. With the completion of the great works undertaken by Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Lecky, and the late Professor Freeman, and the possible termination of the *Rolls Series*, it will become a question of no small moment by what landmarks the progress of English historical writing will be recognised in future years. It is true that Mr. Gasquet's great work on the Reformation is still in progress, that M. Vinogradoff's recent volume will probably be succeeded by a further contribution to the early history of land tenure, and that a few more works of sustained interest are announced, or may be reasonably expected in the immediate future ; but it would nevertheless seem as though the progress of research in this country must, for some time to come at least, be traced in the pages of periodical and serial publications.

The Royal Historical Society has, at least, no reason to be dissatisfied with the share which it has taken in the development of this new branch of historical study.