

method of approach is to classify the Colonies according to their internal governmental structure, and then to trace the development of each of the groups thus set apart. Following out this plan, Professor Osgood substitutes for the old simple division into Royal, Charter, and Proprietary Colonies, a more complex analysis into Corporate Colonies and Provinces, then dividing the latter class into Royal and Proprietary Provinces. In his earlier papers he showed the sharp distinction that must be observed between the structure of the Corporate Colony — exemplified in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts before 1684 — and the Provinces; and he furthermore maintained the essential oneness in principle of the Proprietary Province — whether the proprietor were an individual, a group of individuals, or a company — and the Royal Province.

But parallel with the classification into Corporations and Provinces is another, which divides the Colonies into those which enjoyed the advantages of charters and those which did not: for Corporations and Proprietary Provinces alike had charters, while Royal Provinces, except Massachusetts after 1691, had none. These two canons of division influence one another; and in the two volumes first issued it was the Chartered Colonies, Corporations, and Proprietary Provinces that were compared. The field left to this third volume is consequently the Royal Province; and thus Virginia after 1624, the dissolution of the Massachusetts Bay Company, the beginnings of royal government in New Hampshire and New York, the administration of Governor Andros in the Eastern Provinces, together with the revolutionary movements which in 1689 appeared in New York, in Massachusetts, and in Maryland, — these parts of Colonial history are developed with the same clearness and wealth of details that characterized the earlier portion of the work. The institutional life of the Royal Province is not treated under such separate heads as the Land System, the Official System, the Financial System, Ecclesiastical Relations, etc., as were used in the preceding volumes, but is developed along with the narrative. This is due, in all probability, to the fact that only a small part of the life of the Royal Provinces other than Virginia lies within the limits of the period chosen by Professor Osgood, the seventeenth century.

The greatest value of the present volume lies in its discussion of the imperial control of England. The author begins with the thesis

ENGLAND'S AMERICAN PROVINCES AND HER IMPERIAL CONTROL.*

The third volume of Professor Osgood's notable work, "The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century," rounds out, after an interval of three years, that part of the classification of the Colonies which the writer omitted from consideration in his first instalment of two volumes. A word is needed, perhaps, to remind one of this classification, in order that the purpose of the work may be fully understood. Instead of treating the Colonies from a purely chronological standpoint, or, on the other hand, taking up successively each Colony or group of Colonies in geographical order, Professor Osgood has developed in earlier monographs and now in this extensive treatise the idea that the true

*THE AMERICAN COLONIES IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. By Herbert L. Osgood, Ph.D. Volume III., Imperial Control; Beginnings of the System of Royal Provinces. New York: The Macmillan Co.

that the central fact in this connection is the process of transformation out of Chartered Colonies into Royal Provinces. He recalls that the problem of British administration was not one of race but merely of distance. Attempts to enlist the interest of Parliament were summarily checked, and control of the Colonies, so far as it was exercised at all, remained a function of the executive government of England, assisted by the various councils and boards and minor agencies, of which Professor Osgood gives a most helpful account. The seventeenth century was the day of the Chartered Colony, feudal in its aspect, remote from the mother-country. It was the Restoration, with the consequent commercial legislation, that made apparent the need and stimulated the desire for control; and this found its completest expression in the tendency to substitute for the Chartered Colony the Royal Province—a tendency that reached high-tide under King James II., and was checked by the Revolution of 1688 and the reflections of that event on this side of the Atlantic among the colonists themselves. The Stuart plan had involved the destruction of Colonial legislatures and the union of the Colonies into governor-generalships. The result of the Revolutionary period was the continuance of the tendency to establish Royal Provinces, but with the concession, through a compromise with local spirit, of provincial assemblies.

This, in a few words, is the scope of the volume. Included, of course, is an account of Cromwell's colonial policy; of the group of statesmen about the court of Charles II., who took an active part in the revival of interest in colonization, of the legislation regarding commerce that centred in the acts of 1660, 1663, and 1673, of the machinery that was developed for the enforcement of these acts, and of such special commissions for the settlement of American affairs as those sent in 1664 to New England and in 1677 to Virginia. It is the impression of unity derived from the reading of this part of the work that gives support to the author's somewhat positive statement that in this volume "the attempt has for the first time been made to trace the history of this control as a distinct and separate feature of colonization."

Yet, as Professor Osgood himself states, this is "something less than a history of British Colonial administration in America," because "the island Colonies, with Newfoundland, are for the most part left out of account." It is true, says the author in explanation of this

omission, that Great Britain considered these more important than the continental Colonies, and thus laid part of the ground of the Revolution; yet the experience of the latter "amply illustrates all the phases of the British system of control." Whether this resolution to exclude the island Colonies is wisely taken is a matter of doubt. In the beginning of the volume the author dismisses with something like a *non possumus* the whole question of the extension to the Colonies of English law. One wishes, in view of the completeness of Professor Osgood's discussion of other phases of the subject, that he had devoted his own hand to this, at least to the extent of informing the reader that the English courts did consider the matter, and, in a series of cases from Calvin's case to Campbell *vs.* Hall, did formulate a doctrine; and that in this series of cases one of special importance, that of Blankard *vs.* Galdy, was concerned with the extension of English statutes to the island of Jamaica, which had been added to the Empire by conquest from the Spanish in the time of Cromwell, and in which the matter of the extension of the laws of England had been the ground of a long political controversy. However, although one may find that Professor Osgood has not included all the English Colonies in America, and has not treated exhaustively all phases of imperial control, one leaves the work with a feeling which constitutes a very real testimony to its value—the hope that before many years the author will continue it into the no less important epoch of the eighteenth century.

ST. GEORGE LEAKIN SIOUSSAT.
