

been no better comment on what Duruy calls "this marvelous and terrible epic history," than the following paragraph :

Disasters fell upon two victims; but there were two culprits, the Emperor and France; of whom the one after ten years of revolution, re-established the old *régime* under new forms, and ruined himself utterly, because he would place no restraint upon either his ambition or his genius; while the other had deserved her misfortunes, by throwing herself like a lost child into the arms of a young and glorious general, and to escape the burden of governing herself, had restored what she had just overthrown.

The writer has only space to touch with brevity the many events he attempts to describe, but he stimulates our appetite, and makes us eager to go ourselves to the sources from which he has taken his material.

We commend the two volumes, and heartily agree with Andrew D. White, who declares "Duruy's to be the best of all short summaries of French history." The portraits make it especially interesting for young people.

DURUY'S HISTORY OF FRANCE.*

MRS. M. CAREY has done the public a good service in translating Monsieur Duruy's *History of France* from the seventeenth French edition. It is an admirable summary of French history for school use, having besides the text thirty-four illustrations. They are cheap prints, of course, but will serve to give the scholars some idea of the personalities of the different great heroes of French history.

A short concise history is usually a dull one, a mere colorless statement of facts. But Duruy has done for France what Greene has done so admirably for England, and has given us a quick succession of graphic pictures of the different reigns.

His first volume begins "in the beginning," with the early migrations of the Gauls, and the second volume ends with the third republic. In spite of covering this immensely long period, the writer's comments on the men and on the periods are often brilliant and trenchant. In writing of the condition of France at the close of the reign of Louis XV, he says :

There had never been so earnest a desire for information of all sorts, or such boldness in venturing beyond the beaten tracks, as was exhibited in this century. Men had long consoled themselves for abuses by an epigram, and for crimes by a song. But now the public mind was becoming more serious, and consequently more formidable. In the presence of a royalty which took pleasure in degrading itself, of nobles "who seemed to be only the ghosts of their ancestors," and were unable any longer to produce generals, of a clergy among whom were no longer found either Bossuets or Fenelons, privileges were questioned, the titles of these powers formerly respected were investigated.

In all the long series of books written upon Napoleon during the last few years there has

*A History of France. By Victor Duruy. Translated by Mrs. M. Carey. T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$3.00.