

vantage, as compared with his English or continental colleague, if he attacks a European and especially a mediæval theme. Yet such studies must be undertaken if our graduate schools are to cultivate breadth of historic knowledge as well as accuracy of historic method; and the roll of American writers upon European themes is a sufficient proof that much of value may be accomplished in this field. Dr. Thompson deserves credit for having swerved from the usual path of the American graduate student in history and chosen the more arduous course. On the whole, he has been rewarded with a good degree of success. His sketch of the French monarchy under Louis VI. is a conscientious, painstaking piece of work, based on an extensive acquaintance with the sources and literature of the subject. In especial, his voluminous bibliography is to be commended. His portrait of the French king and his account of the methods by which the royal power was exercised and augmented, give little ground for dissent. But it is Dr. Thompson's misfortune that the special field chosen has been made so fully his own by M. Achille Luchaire, whose elaborate investigations into this portion of Capetian history have appeared in a series of monographs and volumes beginning in 1880, that what was left for the laborious gathering of the American gleaner contains little that is novel. Nor is the writer's treatment of the several heads into which he divides his theme as extensive as it might profitably have been made. This is conspicuously the case in the chapter entitled "Administrative Organization;" and a similar criticism is deserved by that headed "The Liberation of the Realm." Dr. Thompson's own sympathies, it is probable, were most aroused by the rising manifestations of the Third Estate. At all events, his work is to be seen at its best in the section designated "King and Communes; Royalty and the Popular Classes." The essay under review has worth in itself; but its highest value is as a promise of yet better things in the future from its author.

W. W.

*The King's Peace*, by F. A. Inderwick, Q.C. (New York, Macmillan and Co., 1895, pp. xxiv, 254), is the second in the Social England series, edited by Mr. Kenelm D. Cotes. In this book, Mr. Inderwick has presented a sketch of the English courts of law, their officers, jurisdictions, and procedure. The history of the courts is divided by the author into five periods, marked by the dominance, alternately, of the principle of centralization and decentralization, by the existence of national or local courts, of uniform or varied powers. The special topics discussed are the courts of general jurisdiction, of local jurisdiction, of special jurisdiction, as the manorial courts, the forest courts, the admiralty courts, and the Star Chamber; the officers of the courts,—the chancellor, the justiciar, the barons, and the serjeants-at-law; and the procedure,—by compurgation, by ordeal, and by torture.

The value of the book is qualified by the character of the premises: That the English law, the English peace, is the King's law and the King's peace, is the theory of the older jurists. Happily, however, the text is

not followed, and it is in other and minor matters that the author's legal conservatism is especially observable. In the discussion of the forest courts and law, in particular, he maintains the validity of the Forest Charter of Cnut, Dr. Liebermann to the contrary notwithstanding. Again, in the discussion of the influence of the Roman law upon English law, he hazards a doubt, in spite of Mr. Maitland's recent assurances on that subject.

In spite of these failures, the failures rather of a legal antiquarian than of an historian, the book will possess a value and an interest for the general reader, an interest enhanced by several well-chosen illustrations, and a value increased by the presentation of a short bibliography.

In a little cardboard-bound volume of 114 pages, among the Publications of the University of Pennsylvania (Series in Philology, Literature, and Archæology, Vol. IV., No. 2), Professor E. P. Cheyney has brought together, arranged, and commented on almost every scrap of printed information concerning the rural changes in England in the Tudor period (*Social Changes in England in the Sixteenth Century, as reflected in Contemporary Literature*. Part I. *Rural Changes*). He has had the happy idea of adding a reproduction, in miniature, of one of the Oxfordshire open-field maps, published in 1889, by the Clarendon Press, at the instance of the late Mr. Mowat, but already very difficult to get hold of; and of adding, also, a reproduction of an excellent photograph, recently taken by himself, of an open-field still existing near Coblenz. These are welcome reinforcements to the maps in Mr. Seebohm's *English Village Community*; and may, we will hope, penetrate to "purely literary" circles, where Mr. Seebohm is perhaps unknown.

The publication is one among many recent indications of the growing interest in the economic side of history; and it forms an excellent introduction to the subject. But it could be wished that Professor Cheyney had not shown quite so much tender mercy for the literary students as to refrain almost entirely, as here he does, from expressing his own opinion on some of the legal and economic questions, still under discussion, in regard to the enclosure movement. On the former, he would have got some help from Professor Maitland's *History of English Law*, and on the latter from Professor Hasbach's *Die englischen Landarbeiter*. W. J. A.

An attractive little volume is issued in limited edition by George H. Richmond and Co., of New York, under the title *A Letter written on October 4, 1589, by Captain Cuellar of the Spanish Armada to his Majesty King Philip II., recounting his Misadventures in Ireland and elsewhere after the Wreck of his Ship* (pp. x, 109). The book is labelled *Spanish Armada Tract Number 1*, but no announcement is made respecting subsequent issues, nor respecting the scope of the series. This first tract is translated by Henry D. Sedgwick, Jr., from the Spanish text given in Captain Fernandez Duro's *La Armada Invencible*. The letter is a very interesting one,