

gaining of votes by the bestowal of peerages, pensions and places involved no element of corruption or bribery ; hence, if there was no immediate payment of cash, the Pitt ministry achieved the Union with clean hands. It is to meet this contention that the Irish Nationalists have sought, and according to Mr. Lecky have found, satisfactory evidence of direct payments from the secret service funds.

Judge Morris's efforts to be absolutely impartial in assigning praise and blame for the policy and methods of Pitt's government at the time of the Union, are obvious and are fairly successful. But he cannot escape a final relapse into the canting phrase that seems inevitable in discussing British relations with the Irish. Important support was given by the Catholics of Ireland to the cause of the Union on an official assurance by the government that relief from their political disabilities would follow. This pledge was not fulfilled. Thus, the author observes, "by one of those accidents so frequent in Irish history, Catholic Ireland was again deceived ; what was done had only too much in common with Strafford's 'Graces' and the broken treaty of Limerick." Why acts of deliberate perfidy and deceit should, when perpetrated by the British government, be so commonly described as "accidents" when no such euphemism is ever employed to designate similar acts of the Irish, is one of the problems that confronts every student of Irish history.

In his concluding survey of the period from the Union to 1868 the author is in the main more satisfactory than could be expected. He is evidently an ingrained adversary of all that has in recent years expressed itself in the Parnell movement. Yet he does fair justice to O'Connell, both for his character and his purposes. Judge Morris in this respect recalls the position of Lecky, who finds for Irish agitators of the past and their various demands an abundance of rational justification, but sees in the aims of contemporary leaders and movements only viciousness and anarchy.

WM. A. DUNNING.

*The Year after the Armada and other Historical Studies.* By MARTIN A. S. HUME, F.R.Hist.S. (New York and London : The Macmillan Co. 1896. Pp. viii, 388.)

A MOST valuable secondary result, a sort of "by-product," of the editing of the English state papers and national records has been the training of a group of investigators with a scientific method of historical study. The enforced restriction to authoritative texts, the rigorous use of a given chronological arrangement, a modicum of textual criticism, and some ingenious search for documentary illustration of obscure points not only furnish historical sources in a form invaluable to students, but have a most important reflex influence on the editor himself. Of students and writers trained in such work England has now a considerable number; Major Hume being an instance, but in the past it has not been so. One can therefore hardly avoid the belief that there is a close connection be-

tween the lateness with which the English government took up this work, as compared with some of the Continental countries, and the inferiority of English historical production, judged according to modern standards. If Froude or Macaulay, for instance, had served an apprenticeship to his science by editing some volumes of the Rolls Series or of the *Calendars of State Papers*, in addition to his apprenticeship to his art, the world might possibly have lost some picturesque and dramatic writing, but it would certainly have gained some more accurate and judicious information about the periods with which those writers have been principally concerned. The union of high literary skill with a judicial attitude of mind and scientific methods of study in any very exhaustive historical work is an interesting phenomenon which has hardly occurred in English writing for some generations and will be all the more welcome when it shall appear.

Major Hume's book is an instance of some of the results of the training to which we have referred. It consists of nine essays on matters connected with the history of England and Spain during the sixteenth century. The first and longest of these is an account of a little-known or little-considered expedition sent by England against Spain in support of a certain pretender to the Portuguese crown, in the summer of 1589. Historically the most valuable result of this study is the measure it gives us of the limitations of English military and naval possibilities at that period. Notwithstanding the glamour of English success in the narrow seas and in rapid forays into Spanish ports in the old world and the new, it was only within those narrow limits that she had any chance of success. The vacillation and the parsimony of the home government, the lack of funds, of men, and of great military talents would have doomed to certain failure any more ambitious plans of warfare or of invasion. But a secondary interest of the essay, and one which is typical of the whole series, is the entire devotion of the author to his sources, and the new group of these which he has laid under contribution. In addition to some familiar English records he has used the official reports of the Spanish ministers to their home government and two recently discovered contemporary manuscript accounts from the Spanish and Portuguese sides. A whole mine of information and of explanation is thus laid open, and the same kind of sources is drawn upon in all of the subsequent essays. The second of these follows the career of a typical soldier of fortune of those days, Julian Romero. We find him fighting against the Moors in Tunis, in Flanders against the French, in the service of the English king against the Scots and the rioters of Kett's rebellion, again in the Netherlands against the French and later against the Emperor's own rebels, and still later in the wars in Italy. All through Alva's terrible administration and those of his two successors, from the arrest of Egmont to the destruction of Antwerp, he was in the foremost of the cruel struggle against the Netherlanders. But little of this narrative could have been constructed had it not been for the various series of *Calendars of State Papers*, English and foreign, and for the Spanish *Documentos Inéditos*. In the third

essay, which is occupied with the history of the sojourn of Philip II. in England as husband of its unfortunate queen, the points of especial prominence and originality are the continued and general unpopularity of Philip's Spanish attendants, their restiveness under the restraints and humiliations of their position, and the gradual development of Philip's conviction that the English marriage alliance would be of no political value to him. That part of the plan which consisted in the king's obtaining an influence over his wife succeeded admirably, but Philip and his advisers discovered that in England even the Tudor absolutism was hampered at every turn by the power of the ministers and of the nobles and even by the privileges of the mass of the people. The author's conception of Philip's character and the description of his manners as brought out in this and other essays is quite different from that which has been generally received. His conduct toward Mary is described as grave, courteous and dignified. He is characterized as "a laborious, narrow-minded, morbidly conscientious man, patient, distrustful and timid, a sincere lover of peace and a hater of all sorts of innovations. He was born to a position for which he was unfitted and was forced by circumstances stronger than himself to embark upon gigantic warlike enterprises which he disliked and deplored."

Whether this is a correct estimate of Philip's character or not, the atmosphere into which we are brought by Major Hume's writing is a normal uncolored one, in which fair judgments are practicable and natural. Moreover it is a clear atmosphere in which objects and people stand out with remarkable vividness. The men and women whom we meet in the essay, "A Palace in the Strand," are very real indeed, and, familiar as their names may be, they are given a new life to the reader, even if this life is somewhat shabby beneath its gorgeous exterior; if the maiden queen does make questionable jokes and obtain the diamonds of her guests by equally questionable means; if Cecil does cheat Raleigh out of his frontage on the street, and most of the other ministers take bribes from both parties.

The book is a handsome one in binding, in paper and printing, and in its portraits, some of which one is tempted to cut out and frame. It is all the more a matter of regret that there are some prevailing defects. The Tudor rose, which occurs so frequently as an ornament, is deprived of its significance as an emblem of the two houses of York and Lancaster by having three circles of petals instead of two. In two cases the coat of arms has the motto "*Dieu est mon droit*," and there is an occasional misspelled word. But if any general criticism of the book is to be made, it is upon the comparative unimportance of the subjects with which it deals. They are all, it is true, genuine historical matters, and they are undoubtedly explained more completely and clearly than they have been before. And yet there arises a sense of disappointment. One cannot but feel that so much apparatus and preparation should produce something more than mere corrections of existing views or elucidation of existing obscurities in what are after all minor points of

history. It cannot be that there is not more serious work for historical investigation and judgment than the mere filling out of the old personal narrative. In other words, we feel that the author does nothing toward the solution of the historical problems in which our age interests itself especially. It is said that each generation must rewrite history in the light of its own ideas of what is important and interesting. But mere personal narrative represents the ideals of a past generation rather than of our own. Perhaps this judgment is sufficiently deprecated in the author's preface, but it is none the less true for that.

E. P. CHEYNEY.

*History of the German Struggle for Liberty.* By POULTNEY BIGELOW, B. A. (New York: Harper and Brothers. 1896. Two vols., pp. xiv, 250; vi, 263.)

MR. POULTNEY BIGELOW'S *History of the German Struggle for Liberty* is hardly a history in the ordinary sense of the word. From a book presuming upon that name, we have a right to expect information which Mr. Bigelow does not give. It is not extravagant to demand a comprehensive view of the dominant government, a picture of the evolution of its organs, an analysis of the personal contributions to current political struggles; in short, we may rightly insist that the state be regarded as a main theme of the argument to which we are invited to give hearing. Mr. Bigelow does not agree with the general opinion in this matter. I need only refer to a few examples to illustrate his neglect of the highly important political aspects of his chosen period. In the first volume he freely condemns the governmental system in vogue in Prussia before 1806. This is the notorious *Cabinets-regierung*. Have we not a right to demand that the indignation, in which we are invited to share, be fed through our intelligence by the aid of a careful exposition of this mischievous system? Again, we read concerning the reforms of Stein (I. 169): "The revolution which Stein accomplished has no parallel in history." If this is true so unique a movement deserves more than two pages, agape, moreover, with omissions. Such staring *lacunae* as these must needs detract from our opinion of the severity of Mr. Bigelow's studies.

If Mr. Bigelow's view of his task is not so comprehensive as might be desired, it must be granted, nevertheless, that his book commands our interest at the start and holds it to the end. The author has reconstructed his period with much vivacity. Once let it be understood that he is not writing for the historical professor, but for the general public rather, with its human and literary interest in the broad movements of national life, and there is easy and pleasant sailing under his pilotage. In more than one respect Mr. Bigelow's method recalls Carlyle. Mr. Bigelow, like Carlyle, scouts the painstaking elaboration of organic matter, and offers instead a rapid succession of dissolving views of men and of events. His book moves like a series of more or less connected scenes upon a stage. Many of them must be regarded as vivid