

preventing the Poles from becoming Napoleon's instruments and anticipating the establishment of the duchy of Warsaw. When war with France came within sight in 1810, the project of a Polish kingdom again occupied Alexander's thoughts. The interesting letters that then passed between him and Czartoryski form part of the collection published in 1865; they appear unaltered in the present work.

The new documents enumerated above comprise the minutes of the council held at St. Petersburg on the murder of the duke of Enghien; the secret instructions given to Novosiltzow on his mission to England in September 1804 (he was told among other things to try to turn out Pitt and to establish a coalition ministry); a project for the resettlement of Europe after a successful war (1804), with plans for the eventual partition of Turkey; and various reports sent in by Czartoryski to Alexander on the affairs of 1805 and 1806. Space does not permit us to enter into the contents of these documents, which deserve to be cited almost at full length; but their mere titles will suggest to the student of the history of that time what a treasure of information they contain.

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A new volume in the *Collection de textes pour servir à l'étude et à l'enseignement de l'histoire*, now in course of publication by Alphonse Picard, Paris, calls for notice as one of considerable utility. It forms the first part of the *Textes relatifs aux institutions privées et publiques aux époques Mérovingienne et Carolingienne*, edited by M. Thévenin—a compilation for which the editor justly claims the merit of 'adequately affording to the student the necessary notions with respect to the social economy and life of the period,' while it also throws much light on not a few points connected with the history of legislation. The extracts are accompanied by brief notes, which are so clear and to the point as to leave us only to regret that they are not more numerous. So far as the date of each document is ascertainable, the order is chronological; but by means of two indexes the geographical distribution is placed before the student (the great majority belonging either to Neustria or to Burgundia), and the whole material is also classified according to the subjects to which the different documents relate. Among them are those defining the status or illustrating the condition of freemen, serfs, and *coloni*; those appertaining to marriage, dowry, paternity, and adoption; to property, donations, and bequests; to modes of procedure in courts, to attestation, and to legal evidence; to legal decisions and to criminal law. Altogether, this collection, when completed by the publication of the corresponding volume relating to public law, cannot fail to be of great utility to the student. It does not contain much that is new to advanced scholars—only one document appearing for the first time in print, and this inserted, according to M. Thévenin's own admission, chiefly as a concession to the '*goût exagéré et indiscret de l'érudition de notre temps pour "l'inédit;"*' but it brings together, after the fashion of Stubbs's 'Select Charters,' a body of judiciously selected material before accessible only in different collections, for the most part of a costly and somewhat rare description.

*Jean VIII et la Fin de l'Empire Carolingien.* Par A. GASQUET. (Clermont-Ferrand: Imprimerie Mont-Louis. 1886.) M. Gasquet, who

is professor of history and geography in the Faculté des Lettres at Clermont, gives us in this short treatise the results of some valuable research. He has made a special study of the correspondence of John VIII, and his estimate of the general ability of that pontiff is higher perhaps than that of any recent writer, much more so certainly than that of Gregorovius. The sudden changes of policy for which John was notorious, and which others have ascribed to vacillation of purpose, are in M. Gasquet's opinion the result of a remarkable capacity for discerning the tendency of events and grappling with the exigencies of the hour. The treatise also contains much that is suggestive with regard to the relations of the empire and the popedom, and the summary which it gives of the difficulties attaching to the much-controverted question of the date and genuineness of the *Libellus de imperatoria potestate in urbe Roma* will be found useful. The criticisms in connexion with the alleged donation of Charles the Bald to the Holy See are also well deserving of attention; and the conditions of the papal election and consecration at this period receive no little elucidation.

*Baines's Lancashire* has long held a well-known place among county histories. The book—to give it its full title, *The History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, by Edward Baines, M.P.—first appeared in 1886 in four quarto volumes. A new edition by Harland and Herford, in 1868, succeeded in reducing its size to two volumes; but this was done by the use of an unpleasantly small type and the omission of the family pedigrees dear to the heart of the local antiquary. Mr. James Croston, F.S.A., at length undertook the preparation of a third edition, to include these pedigrees and to steer a middle course between its two predecessors. The type though close, is not too small, and the work is to be completed in three volumes, of which the first lies before us (Manchester and London: John Heywood). Probably there is no county history in existence of which the introductory or general portion will bear much looking into; and the present one is no exception. On the very first page we find the forgery known as 'Richard of Cirencester' quoted in cold blood, and Mr. Croston has actually *added* in the new edition Dr. Henry's 'opinion that the Brigantes were descended from the ancient Phrygians.' After this it is not surprising to learn that 'historians are generally agreed that the aborigines of Britain . . . were Gauls or Gaels.' The account of Roman roads and other remains in Lancashire, indeed, shows a distinct improvement on the previous editions; but there is a recrudescence in the summary of Anglo-Saxon history, where the myths of Geoffrey of Monmouth, Alfred's institution of trial by jury, and other 'facts' of the kind are solemnly recorded. Why should county histories be kept as mortuaries for defunct blunders? It is needless to say that it would be highly unfair to judge the local part of the 'History' by these examples. Here the new edition seems on the whole to be fairly well prepared, though there are some bad blemishes, and we think that those who have occasion to use the book would prefer to have documents given in the original and at full length instead of (as is sometimes the case here) in an abridged translation. The statistics are, in most instances, brought down to the latest date, but it is surely unadvisable to encroach upon the

province of the Directory by giving lists of present holders of office in the county.

*A short History of the Irish People, down to the date of the Plantation of Ulster*, by the late A. G. Richey (Dublin: Hodges & Figgis) is a rather misleading title given to a reprint of two courses of lectures which appeared in 1869 and 1870. Mr. Kane, who has edited them, has incorporated another lecture on the physical geography of Ireland and the beginning of a detailed history of Ireland which was left behind at Mr. Richey's death. It may be doubted if this attempt to weave together fragments into a consecutive history has been successful, and the adoption of a title suggested by a very different kind of book is certainly a mistake. This does not, however, detract from the value of Mr. Richey's work, which has been already recognised. No recent writer has dealt with Irish history in a more intelligent and sympathetic manner than Mr. Richey, while his fairness of mind and his critical judgment give his book a permanent value. Above all things he has grasped the origin of institutions, without a clear conception of which Irish history is a hopeless puzzle. It may be admitted that he has mapped out the course of early Irish history with precision and has prepared the way for a larger treatment of its problems. We are thankful for a new edition of these extremely suggestive lectures, which deserve to be widely known.

*Souvenirs du feu duc de Broglie*. Vol. IV. (Paris: Lévy. 1886.) The first three volumes of this work were reviewed in our number of January 1887. The fourth volume, which appeared later, and which concludes the work, takes up the narrative at the point where the duc de Broglie became a minister of Louis-Philippe on 11 Aug. 1830. It is carried no further than April 1832. The third chapter, which deals with the brief period from 11 Aug. to 2 Nov. 1830, during which the duke remained in office, is of considerable historical value. It sets in a very clear light the principal objects of the ministry of 11 Aug., or rather of that section of it which agreed with Broglie: viz. to get Talleyrand sent to England; to preserve the Council of State from abolition; and, while requiring strict legality from the clergy, to avoid all unnecessary quarrels with the Church. The later part of the volume contains little that is not found in current histories; and it is to be regretted that the duke did not live to carry his *Souvenirs* over the period of his return to office as the leading member of Louis-Philippe's government.

A new monthly publication entitled *Le Moyen Age* made its appearance last January. Besides reviews of books bearing on medieval history and literature and a *variété* now and then, it contains a detailed account, with occasional criticism, of the articles on its subject to be found in an immense list of periodical publications. So large is the field covered that the editors can only include one or two countries or sections of countries in a single number. One almost doubts whether so comprehensive a scheme can be consistently carried out; but the first three numbers are kept well up to the original design. The editors are MM. A. Marignan, G. Platon, and M. Wilmotte. The publication, which is externally much like the *Revue Critique*, is published at Paris by M. Alphonse Picard.

In the last issue of the *ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW*, p. 169, line 11, the date 1658 was misprinted 1698.