

of 1788, and the immigration of the United Empire Loyalists, it is particularly luminous and valuable. An appendix gives a short survey of the disputes that have arisen as to the boundary line of British North America, and is the one chapter in the book which no Canadian will enjoy.

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*Mirabeau and the French Revolution.* By FRED MORROW FLING, Professor of European History in the University of Nebraska. Vol. I.: The Youth of Mirabeau. (New York: Putnam. 1908.)

THIS book is the fruit of the conscientious study of nineteen years. Professor Fling has read everything of any value that has been printed about Mirabeau, and he has devoted his vacations to visiting the scenes of the most important events in the great orator's life, and to investigating many unpublished sources of information. For instance, he has read the whole of the vast correspondence between the Marquis of Mirabeau and his brother the Bailli, preserved in twelve folio volumes. The result is a book, not perhaps equal in literary quality to the comprehensive work *Les Mirabeau*, of MM. de Loménie, or the excellent biography of Professor Alfred Stern, but, nevertheless, admirably complete and judicious. The author has succeeded better, perhaps, than any of his predecessors in his attempt 'to reach an objective view of the man.' Mirabeau's unabashed immorality, mendacity, ingratitude, and shameless disregard of the ordinary rules of decency and honour are patent to everyone. The amiable qualities, the personal charm, which won the faithful affection of such a woman as Henriette de Nehra, which led men like Gilbert Elliot, Romilly, and La Marck to give him their friendship, which made his gaolers his advocates, and police agents his partisans, which disarmed the hostility of all—except his father—who were brought into close contact with him must be taken on trust by posterity, except so far as some faint traces of them may be found in his correspondence. It is therefore not surprising that it should have fared with his biographers very much as with those of Pope: the more they have studied the details of his life the less their sympathy with the subject of their investigations. To cite only two already mentioned: M. Charles de Loménie cannot forgive the slanderer of his father, alternately the flatterer and the libeller of his mother; Professor Stern is too ready to conclude that he who does scoundrelly things must himself be a scoundrel.

When completed, Professor Fling's work will consist of three handsome and well-illustrated volumes; that now published telling the story of Mirabeau's life down to the time of his imprisonment in the Château d'If, a second dealing with his career before 1789, and a third describing the part he played when a member of the Constituent Assembly. It may seem somewhat out of proportion that one-third of the biography of a public man should be devoted to the first twenty-five years of his life. But Mirabeau at twenty was in all essentials the same Mirabeau as at forty; and what he was at the latter age is generally supposed to have had no small influence on the course of French history. If this is so, the parentage, the education, the circumstances, which caused him to be what he was, deserve careful study. And even if it be not so, even if

Mirabeau, such as we know him, although a man born to lead, who alone knew whither and how far he meant to go, neither guided the Assembly by his eloquence nor the court by his wisdom, and was only followed when he thrust himself to the front of a column already hastening to the assault—nay even if Mirabeau without his failings and his past would have accomplished but little in a vain struggle against the double-dealing of the court, against the determination of the king and queen not to accept the Revolution as an accomplished fact of which it only remained to make the best, against the folly of the Right, the well-meaning pedantry of the Centre, and the blind fanaticism of the Left of the Assembly—yet the story of the youth of a man of such exceptional genius and abnormal character must be full of interest to the student of human nature and of the social conditions by which human nature was modified in France on the eve of the Revolution. Professor Fling is for the most part content to state the facts and to leave his readers to form their own conclusion about the relations between Mirabeau and his father and uncle by placing before them full and well-chosen extracts from the correspondence of the family, but where he does add reflexions of his own they are singularly impartial and judicious (see e.g. pp. 58, 174, 197, 249 *seq.*). The reader of Professor Fling's book will probably conclude that not only was the great wit of the son nearly kin to the madness which tainted his mother's family, but that also in the marquis the eccentricity on which the Mirabeaus prided themselves had reached a pitch barely consistent with sanity.

The introductory chapter 'on the struggle against arbitrary government in France' is a somewhat slight porch to so solid an edifice. Following Rocquain and Flammermont the author dwells almost exclusively on the resistance of the lawyers to the authority of the crown and on their appeals to popular prejudice and passion: no doubt an important factor in the movement which culminated in the Revolution, but one only of many. Nor, perhaps, does Professor Fling recognise sufficiently the harm done by the resistance of the parliaments to all changes, however salutary, introduced by the government. The reorganisation of the law courts by Maupeou was a wise and beneficial measure. Had it been maintained, Turgot would, in all probability, have been able by his administrative and fiscal reforms to give such strength to the monarchy that for some generations it would have had little to fear from demands for political privileges which have never been very greatly valued by the majority of Frenchmen. Nor does Professor Fling notice another and in the end not less mischievous result of the struggle between the crown and the law courts, which was, that the ease with which the king whenever he was in earnest bent these noisy champions of popular rights to his will, fostered that ill-founded dread of the great power of the Crown which led the Constituent Assembly to commit some of their most grievous blunders. It was one of the many instances of Mirabeau's clear-sightedness that he did not share this delusion, but recognised that the French 'while complaining of tyranny were really suffering from the evils of anarchy.' He wrote in 1788 that he would be a zealous royalist, because he was convinced of the necessity of restoring the authority of the crown. But we may trust

that whatever is here omitted will be found in the following volumes, and that the author will deal with Mirabeau's public life and with the conditions by which it was determined with the same well-informed impartiality that he has shown as the biographer of his youth.

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*The County Lieutenancies: the Army, 1803-1814.*

By the Hon. J. W. FORTESCUE. (London: Macmillan & Co. 1909.)

NOT the least valuable feature of Mr. Fortescue's great *History of the British Army*, of which this volume may be called an 'overflow,' has been the attention devoted to the development of the institution, as distinct from the more dramatic and moving accounts of campaigns and achievements. Inferior in attraction though it may be, the story of the administration of the army, of the methods by which it has been raised, organised, and equipped, has certainly as much or more value for the present generation on account of the light it throws on the great problem of our military efficiency. And while the organisation of our army is in no period of history so well worth studying as in that of the great struggle against Napoleon, despite its great importance and interest it has hardly been touched, still less at all adequately treated. Mr. Fortescue's exhaustive researches have been therefore in an untouched mine. It would have been a serious loss if the exigencies of space had forced him to compress the results of his investigations into some forty or fifty pages of his next volume. But this would have been inevitable had not the secretary of state for war intervened with a small subsidy. Mr. Fortescue's readers will echo his thanks to Mr. Haldane for having made it possible for him to expound at adequate length the story of the methods adopted to raise troops between 1803 and 1814.

That it is a somewhat depressing story is not to be denied. Mr. Fortescue has triumphed over the very difficult task of presenting in readable form a highly technical subject, which bristles with statistics and abstracts of acts of parliament; he has marshalled a formidable array of details with great skill, and one can see the wood clearly despite the trees; but, after all, the story is mainly one of failure, of one unsuccessful experiment after another—Addington's Army of Reserve, Pitt's Additional Forces Act, Windham's efforts to introduce short service. It must also be admitted that the nation at large, encouraged no doubt by the evil practice of permitting balloted men to procure substitutes, developed a most unsatisfactory anxiety to evade the burden of personal service in the militia (p. 45), having recourse to expedients no less ingenious than discreditable and unpatriotic. One has heard a great deal made of the volunteers, of the members who came forward, and of their zeal and energy; but it is a little disconcerting to find how deservedly low an opinion Windham and Castlereagh held of them. The volunteers owed a large number of their recruits to the desire to obtain exemption from the militia ballot, and their military efficiency was never high. Discipline could not be properly enforced (pp. 105-110); they lacked organisation; their cost was admittedly considerable (p. 29), and once the menace of invasion had ceased to be serious their state went from bad to worse (cf. p. 198). In 1807 they were little or more than 'an armed rabble' (p. 200),