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Review

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worked with unswerving persistency throughout his life to concentrate this power in his own hands, like Caesar, and to use the old republican forms to which his contemporaries were accustomed, as a vesture for the new monarchy which he was secretly and powerfully fashioning. The legend is ridiculous.' (IV, p. 146.) Signor Ferrero works out his theory with great acuteness in his account of the eight years which followed Actium.

Wide knowledge and deep insight, picturesque description and vigorous style are happily united in these volumes, which never lack interest and at times rise almost to the excitement of romance.

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**Social Life at Rome in the Age of Cicero.** By W. WARDE FOWLER, M.A.  
Pp. xvi+362. Macmillan & Co. 10s. net.

After a preliminary topographical survey of Rome in the last years of the Republic, Mr. Warde Fowler approaches first the life of the lower population, and has collected from scanty sources a good deal which is interesting regarding their dwellings, their habits, and their occupations. There follows a striking essay on the business community—the *societates publicanorum* and the *negotiatores*—with many sidelights on the money and credit system and the distribution and use of capital. A chapter on the governing aristocracy, on which there is little that is new to be written, is succeeded by one on Roman marriage and Roman women, enlivened by portraits from Cicero's correspondence, and enriched by a full account of the charming inscription known as the *Laudatio Turiae*, which is thus for the first time made readily accessible to English readers. A graphic chapter on the slaves, coming between essays on Roman education and the houses of the wealthy (the latter containing a delightful description of Cicero's villas) constitutes a forcible—almost dramatic—reminder of the real basis of Roman society. The concluding chapters deal with the daily life of the well-to-do, the holidays and amusements (with an excellent account of the Roman stage), and the state of religion.

Mr. Warde Fowler probes far into the life not only of the aristocrats, but of the great rank and file, and it is well that he does so. His book, which is written with his well-known charm of style, is at once scholarly and human. For the student of the classics it will illumine the Ciceronian age more than many text-books; for the student of humanity it will reveal the vast disparities of human fortune in the ancient world.

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**The Latins in the Levant.** By WILLIAM MILLER. Pp. xx+675. With 4 Maps.  
8vo. London: John Murray. Price 21s. net.

A subsidiary title explains the scope of this work as 'a history of Frankish Greece, 1204-1566,' and we are, in fact, presented with a full history of the Principality of Achaia, the Duchy of Athens, and the Despotat of Epirus. An account is also furnished of Cephalonia and Euboea, while Corfu and the Ionian Islands (chiefly possessions of the Venetians) and the Duchy of the Archipelago are dealt with in three chapters at the end of the book. Cyprus is not included; but, of the nearer Levant, Crete alone is omitted from the wide survey of the author, who declares, with his usual great conscientiousness, that the Venetian history of the island cannot be written 'till the eighty-seven volumes of the *Duca di Candia* documents at Venice are published.' (Alas!)

Mr. Miller's special qualifications for undertaking a history of this nature are already well known and are evident on every page of the present most welcome and valuable work, which is written throughout with a very full and critical knowledge of the sources, both literary and archaeological. He has a quiet, cultivated style, yet brings out all the points of interest with sufficient warmth and emphasis. The general scheme of arrangement is good, but there was one considerable difficulty to be overcome in the shape of a great mass of detail relating to genealogies and marriage-alliances. These details—so

important in feudal history—cannot be omitted, but we think that in a second edition Mr. Miller would do well to relegate many of them to the footnotes. He would thus considerably quicken the flow of his narrative and enable it to be followed without strain or distraction. Inset marginal headings would also, we think, be a serviceable addition.

The Frankish conquest of Constantinople in 1204 is the starting-point of the book, which opens with a singularly interesting picture of Greece at this period—a land half classic and Hellenic, half mediæval and non-Hellenic; a country of Wallachs and Slavs, of Tzákonos (perhaps ancient Laconians), Jews, and Venetians. In the two following chapters the main outlines of the conquest of the Morea and Northern Greece are sketched, and the general character of its organization described. The conquerors transplanted the feudal system, practically unmodified, to their new dominions. The country (as, for instance, in Achaia) was held down by the usual system of military service; the native Greek population became serfs; castles were built and legal tribunals established. (The case of the Barony of Akova, described on p. 143, is a delightful specimen of feudal litigation, with its pedantic and by no means ultra-chivalrous aspects.) The Salic law did not prevail in Achaia, and women, therefore, could—and did—succeed to baronies and even principedoms. This was an obvious source of weakness in a purely military constitution, though one (as Mr. Miller remarks) sometimes productive of romance. Frankish rule was at its zenith from 1214 till 1262. In Achaia the prosperous reign of Geoffrey II. de Villehardouin is followed by that of Prince William, whose court was a school of chivalry. Mr. Miller brings forward some little evidence that shows that at this time 'Franks of position sometimes spent the long winter evenings in the Achaian castles with books of history and romance.' But a much more noticeable characteristic of the period is anything but intellectual, namely the prevalence of piracy, which was so lucrative and so little in ill-repute that it was even adopted as a hereditary profession.

On the death of Prince William of Achaia (A.D. 1278) the influence of the House of Anjou becomes prominent in Greece (chap. vi.). In the early years of the fourteenth century the rough mercenaries of the Catalan Grand Company are 'let loose' upon the rulers of the Levant, and two good chapters (vii. and viii.) describe their fortunes, first as the vanquishers of the united chivalry of Greece at the battle of Kephissos (1311), next (in succession to the fallen Dukes of Athens) as masters of Attica, Boeotia, and part of Thessaly. The Catalan domination comes to an end with the taking of Athens by Nerio Acciajuoli, of the family of rich Florentine bankers (chaps. ix., x.). The spectacle (as the author remarks) of 'chivalry enthroned in the home of classical literature' is a fascinating one, but the union was unnatural and barren. French society never took root in the land; Franks and Greeks never amalgamated, and there was to be no Greek England blended of Norman and native Saxon.

The main features of the later part of the story unfolded in this volume are the growing power of Venice (from 1388) by the purchase of Argos, Nauplia, and Lepanto (Naupaktos); the Greek, *i.e.* Byzantine, reconquest of Achaia (1415–1441), and then the fatal conquest by the Turks. In the earlier period of the conquest (1441–1460), though Continental Greece and the Morea are annexed by the Turks, Venice holds her own; in the later period from 1462–1540 (chap. xiv.), Venice finally loses to them all her Greek possessions. It is worth while to add that the classical reader will be specially interested in an account of the travels of Cyriac of Ancona given in chap. xiii. and also in various contemporary accounts of Athens and Greece to which Mr. Miller has given prominence.

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**Rhodes of the Knights.** BY BARON F. DE BELABRE. With Frontispiece and 188 Illustrations in the text. Pp. 196. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1908. 31s. 6d.

This book is excellently turned out by the Oxford Press; the fine coloured plate which forms the frontispiece represents the fresco of St. George and the Dragon from the English

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