VII.—THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, A.D. 1714–1815.

Several important collections of archives relating to the period have been issued during the year. Vol. V. of the *Stuart Papers belonging to His Majesty the King and preserved at Windsor* has been published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission. It covers parts of the years 1717 and 1718, and is of high value for Jacobite intrigues, especially with the Northern Powers, on whom the hopes of the Jacobites were at this time fixed, and also for the Jacobite view of persons and politics in England. Part V. of the *Denbigh Papers* (also H.M.C.) includes much of the correspondence of the wife of the 5th Earl of Denbigh, a witty Frenchwoman, who lived on intimate terms with the Bolingbrokes, the Wyndhams and the Stanhopes. This correspondence, which covers the years 1735–53, includes many letters from Bolingbroke's second wife during her husband's exile. There are also a few letters of the 6th Earl of Denbigh, a friend of Bute, which contribute some notes on the politics of the years 1760–75. The most important volume of the H.M.C., however, is the eighth volume of the great *Dropmore Papers* (MSS. of J. B. Fortescue, Esq.), which have contributed so largely to our knowledge of the revolutionary period. Vol. VIII. deals exclusively with the year 1806, and contains Lord Grenville's very full collections on the history of the Ministry of All the Talents. In view of Lord Grenville's position in the ministry this volume must be regarded as the supreme authority on the political history of the year.

The Record Office has issued Vol. V. of the *Acts of the Privy Council (Colonial Series)*, edited by Mr. J. Munro. Vol. IV. (1911) covered the years 1745–66, the present volume the years 1766–83, and the two volumes thus provide invaluable new material for the whole course of the American Revolution and the events leading up to it. Among collections of local records two deserve note, for the light they shed on social life in the eighteenth century. *The Acts of the Bishops of Llandaff*, Book IV., sheds useful light on the condition of the Church in Wales 1708–24: the bishop was also Dean of Hereford, and continuously non-resident; most of the prebendaries were also non-resident English. Of *The Liverpool Vestry Records* Vol. I. has been issued, covering the period 1682–1799.

The volume is edited by Henry Peet, and has a good narrative introduction by W. L. Blease. Poor-law administration was exceptionally well conducted in Liverpool during this period, and these very full records contain a great deal of information on many aspects of social life. Among original documents less directly historical or political, mention should be made of Mrs. Paget Toynbee's admirable *Lettres de la Marquise du Deffand à Horace Walpole* (1766-80 ; 3 vols. : Methuen), which are chiefly personal in their interest ; the queer love-affair shows Walpole at his worst. We may also record the completion of Dr. Elrington Ball's admirable edition of *Swift's Letters* (Bell) and Mr. Tovey's equally excellent edition of *Gray's Letters* (Bell). Mr. N. Curnock is issuing a carefully edited edition of *Wesley's Journal* (Kelly). A kind of material rarely available is provided by the *Cumberland Letters*, edited by Clementina Black, and consisting of the correspondence, between 1771 and 1784, of the two nephews of Cumberland the dramatist—the one a country parson, the other a clerk in a London insurance office : the historian is seldom enabled to look at the world through the eyes of such ordinary folk.

The year produced no literature of first-rate importance on the first half of the eighteenth century, but on the second half of the century the process of revising the traditional Whig judgment of men and events imposed by Burke, Horace Walpole and Macaulay continues. This is being gradually carried out (*a*) by a fuller and fairer presentment of the personalities and events most misrepresented in the traditional treatment, and (*b*) by a more searching analysis of the extra-Parliamentary movements which the historians in the Whig tradition almost wholly disregarded. Under the first head falls Mr. D. A. Winstanley's *Chatham and the Whig Opposition* (Cambridge), which continues, for the years 1766-71, the solid and judicial analysis of the politics of George III. begun in the same author's *Personal and Party Government*, and is, like that book, based on a wide range of material, largely new. Mr. T. W. Riker's *Henry Fox, First Lord Holland* (2 vols. ; Oxford) is the first full treatment of its subject : Mr. Riker makes much use of the Hardwicke and Newcastle papers, but has not had access to the archives of Holland House ; his book is especially useful for the intrigues of 1754 and onwards. Mr. J. A. Lovat Fraser has published a short study of the *Earl of Bute* (Cambridge), a much

maligned politician, to whom Von Ruville began to do justice; and after twenty-eight years the new interest in this period has produced a new edition, with some additional material, of Lord Fitzmaurice's *Life of Lord Shelburne* (2 vols. ; Macmillan), a valuable and well-documented study of one of the most important and misunderstood of eighteenth century statesmen. Dr. Holland Rose continues his invaluable studies of the revolutionary period : his *Pitt and Napoleon* (Bell) contains an admirable collection of essays and documentary illustrations supplementary to his two great biographies ; his *Personality of Napoleon* (Bell) stands to his main work as Gardiner's *Cromwell's Place in History* does to his big *History* ; while in *Burke, Windham and Pitt* (E. H. R., October, 1912, and January, 1913) Dr. Rose deals with the Whig recruits of 1794 and their opinions and relations with Pitt, a theme since further elucidated by the publication of the *Windham Papers*. Among extra-Parliamentary movements the Radical movement of the late eighteenth century has been the subject of a series of important books, published, by a strange coincidence, almost simultaneously. Dr. Mathieson's *Awakening of Scotland, 1747-97* (Maclehose), is a useful book, but scarcely a final treatment of its theme ; Dr. Meikle's *Scotland and the French Revolution* (Maclehose) is a more solid treatment of part of the same theme, embodying much fresh material ; Mr. W. P. Hall's *British Radicalism, 1791-97* (Columbia University Studies, Vol. XLIX., No. 1), is a good example of American historical research ; and Mr. G. S. Veitch's *Genesis of Parliamentary Reform* (Constable) is a thorough and scholarly treatment of the whole Reform movement 1768-99, very favourable to the reformers and embodying much new material, English and French, especially on the relations between the Whigs and the Radicals (economical v. electoral reform), 1778-82, and on the connections between the English reform societies and the French revolutionary clubs, 1789-92.

On the side of constitutional history much yet remains to be done. The new edition of Erskine May's *Constitutional History*, edited by Francis Holland (Murray), does not enlarge the narrow interpretation of the subject taken in the original work. Mr. H. W. V. Temperley has published (E. H. R., October, 1912) a valuable essay on *The Inner and Outer Cabinet and the Privy Council*, which must modify the treatment of the history of the Cabinet. Mr. and

Mrs. Webb have added a new volume to their monumental study of local government. Their previous volumes (*Parish and County, Manor and Borough*) dealt with structure, and a volume on the special statutory authorities characteristic of the century remains to complete this part of their work: meanwhile their new volume on *The King's Highway* (Longmans) opens their study of functions.

The year has been rich in books on economic and social history. Three books dealing with aspects of rural history, especially as affected by the enclosure movement, have added immensely to our knowledge of this subject. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond's *The Village Labourer, 1760-1830* (Longmans) is a detailed and scholarly, if rather emotional, study of the change in the status, habits and *moral* of the peasantry under the influence of agrarian changes. Professor Gonner's *Common Land and Inclosure* (Macmillan) is a more abstract and scientific study of the effects of the enclosure movement upon wealth and population, embodying much new material, and fortified with valuable maps and tables. Mr. R. E. Prothero's *English Farming, Past and Present*, (Murray) is the work of one who is at once an expert agriculturist and a trained historian, and should become the standard history of the great agricultural developments of this age. In regard to external trade, Mr. F. P. Robinson's Le Bas prize essay on *The Trade of the East India Company, 1709-1813* (Cambridge), is a useful survey. In *King's Cutlers and Smugglers, 1700-1855* (Allen), Mr. E. K. Chatterton has compiled a large collection of material on the history of smuggling. A valuable piece of research in a neglected field of social history is Mr. E. V. Portus' *Caritas Anglicana* (Mowbray), an historical enquiry into the religious and philanthropic societies working in England between 1678 and 1740: it contains a good bibliography. Miss Rose M. Bradley has also broken fresh ground in her *English Housewife in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (Arnold), while Mr. E. S. Roscoe has provided a useful general survey of social conditions in *The English Scene in the Eighteenth Century*.

On Irish history we have had a new edition, edited by Mr. Barry O'Brien, of the *Autobiography of Wolfe Tone* (2 vols.; Maunsell), and an interesting selection from the memoirs of Miles Byrne, (originally published in 1907) under the title of *Some Notes of an Irish Exile of 1798*. There are side-lights to be gleaned from Mr. E. L. Bradsher's account of *Matthew Carey*, an Irish pamphleteer

who emigrated to America in 1784. Mr. M. McD. Bodkin has written a florid and enthusiastic account of *Grattan's Parliament* (Unwin).

The year has been very rich in studies of the American Revolution and of the events and conditions which produced it. No aspect of eighteenth-century history is being more rapidly transformed by scientific research, and this is chiefly due to American scholars. Unfortunately, Sir George Trevelyan in his *George III. and Charles Fox*, Vol. I. (Longmans), which is a continuation of his *American Revolution and Early Life of Charles James Fox*, is still devoting his brilliant style and narrative power to the maintenance of the old misleading Whig view of the Revolution. A correction will be found in Professor Channing's *History of the United States*, of which Vol. III., covering the period 1761-89, appeared during the year. Of first-rate value is Mr. O. M. Dickerson's *American Colonial Government, 1696-1765*, a detailed and eminently fair and scientific study of the methods and procedure of the British Board of Trade and Plantations during the period preceding the Revolution. It is supplemented by Mr. W. T. Root's *Relations of Pennsylvania with the British Government, 1696-1765* (University of Pennsylvania), a careful and minute analysis of the working of the old colonial system in the case of a particularly interesting colony. The work of the colonial governors during the pre-revolutionary period is beginning to be more fully understood. Mr. C. H. Lincoln's *Correspondence of William Shirley, Governor of Massachusetts, 1731-60* (Macmillan, 2 vols.), does justice to one of the ablest of the governors; while Lady Edgar's *A Colonial Governor in Maryland* (Longmans), with the aid of letters and excerpts from newspapers presents a detailed picture of the work of Horatio Sharpe, Governor from 1753 to 1773, throughout the critical period preceding the Revolution. The Rev. H. Belcher's *First American Civil War, 1775-8* (2 vols.), is valuable, not only for the freshness of its point of view, but for the emphasis which it lays upon the social aspects of the war. Mr. F. Edler's *The Dutch Republic and the American Revolution* is a useful contribution to the history of the struggle.

The absence of any important books on the history of British India during this period—the period of Clive, Warren Hastings and Wellesley—is discreditable. The late Mr. S. J. Owen's *Fall of the Mogul Empire* is a useful contribution to the early part of the period.

Mr. D. C. Boulger has published a study of *Maharajah Devi Sinha and the Nashipur Raj*: Devi Sinha was a minor native noble who was a friend of Warren Hastings, and was concerned in his trial. But these two books can scarcely be balanced against the literature of the year which deals with the not more important theme of the American Revolution.

On English naval and military history some useful work has been done. Vol. VII. of Mr. Fortescue's great *History of the British Army* (Macmillan) is concerned with the campaigns of 1809-10 and the West Indian campaigns to 1815. Professor Oman's *Wellington's Army* (Arnold) is an excellent study of the Peninsular army as it lived and worked, deserving to be compared with Professor Frith's *Cromwell's Army*.

In the field of historical geography mention should be made of a new edition of Miss Semple's *Influence of Geography on American History*. Miss Semple is one of the best of those who study the geographical explanation of history, but is apt to over-emphasise the influence of geographical factors. Mr. E. Heawood has written a useful *History of Geographical Discovery in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*.

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