VI.—THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 1603–1714 A.D.¹

The local history of the Civil War has received several notable additions. Three substantial books on different districts appeared in 1910, *The Great Civil War in Dorset*, by A. R. Bayley (Taunton, Barnicott and Pearce), *Sussex in the Great Civil War*, by C. Thomas-Stanford (Chiswick Press), and *The Great Civil War in Lancashire*, by E. Broxap (Manchester University Press). All three will be of value to anyone studying the war as a whole, but each is indispensable to anyone teaching history in the particular county of whose fortunes it treats. In addition to these the Chetham Society issued in 1909 a collection of *Tracts relating to the Civil War in Cheshire*, edited by J. A. Atkinson, and in 1911 the National Library of Wales published a *Catalogue of Tracts of the Civil War and Commonwealth Period relating to Wales and the Borders*.

The history of Scotland from the Union of the Crowns in 1603 to the incorporating Union of 1707, is being steadily elucidated by the publication of new materials. The most important contribution to it is *The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, edited by Professor P. Hume Brown. The third series of these papers begins with the restoration of Charles II., and now consists of 4 vols., covering the years 1660–1676. The last of the four appeared in 1911. The Scottish History Society published in 1909 Sir Thomas Craig's *De Unione Regnorum Britanniaë*, important as the only detailed argument from the Scottish side in favour of the political union projected by James I. In 1911 it issued Johnson of Wariston's *Diary* for the years 1632–9, devoted chiefly to his religious experiences, but containing some side lights on politics; and *The Household Book of Lady Grisell Baillie*, which shows how the income of a family was administered at the end of the seventeenth century. Household books, the accounts of merchants and manufacturers, and other documents of the same class, stimulate the study of the economic and social history of Scotland. Miss Keith's *Commercial Relations of England and Scotland, 1603–1707* (Cambridge University Press, 1910); *The Scottish Staple at Veere*, by J. Davidson

¹ Professor Firth regrets that, owing to pressure of work, he has not been able to add the sections on foreign history this year.

and A. Gray (Longmans, 1909) ; *The Scottish Staple in the Netherlands*, by M. P. Rooseboom (Nyhoff, The Hague, 1910), are examples of the attention now paid to a side of Scottish history too much neglected hitherto.

Irish history attracts fewer students than Scottish history, and presents so many questions which are still battle grounds for parties that it is unusually difficult. Mr. Richard Bagwell's *Ireland under the Stuarts and during the Interregnum*, 1603-1660 (2 vols., Longman, 1909), supplies a solid foundation for the study of the period, and is based on wide and thorough researches. At present the great deficiency is the lack of any adequate history of the reigns of Charles II. and James II. Mr. Bagwell is preparing a work on these reigns. Dr. R. H. Murray's *Revolutionary Ireland and its Settlement* (Macmillan), is an account of the state of Ireland from the Revolution of 1688 to the beginning of Queen Anne's reign, which corrects and amplifies in many places the narratives of Macaulay and Froude by the light of materials made accessible since they wrote. Its special merit lies in the author's attempt to bring out the extent to which the course of affairs in Ireland was influenced by the European struggles of the time. Mr. D. C. Boulger's *Battle of the Boyne* (Martin Secker), deals with more of the military history of the time than its title implies, and contains the result of some research in the French archives, but is vitiated by the author's partiality and by his unscholarly habit of giving no proper references. *The Life of the Duke de Lauzun*, by Miss M. F. Sandars (2 vols., Hutchinson, 1908), also contains some documentary evidence from French sources, illustrating the war in Ireland.

As to the publication of new documents the State Papers relating to Ireland, so far as they exist in the English Public Record Office, have now been calendared up to 1670 in a separate series of volumes ; after 1670 they are included in the calendars of the Domestic State Papers from 1670 to 1678, and from 1689 to 1695. The issue of the very important series of Calendars of the Ormond Papers at Kilkenny, issued by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, was interrupted by the death of Mr. C. Litton Falkiner in 1908. A sixth volume, partly prepared by him, was completed by Mr. F. Elrington Ball in 1911. Mr. Litton Falkiner's death was a very great loss to students of Irish history ; a collection of *Essays relating to Ireland*, many of which deal with episodes in the seventeenth

century, was published in 1909 (Longmans), in continuation of two similar collections published during his life-time.

The foreign relations of England during the 17th century receive too little attention at present. The last volume of the *Calendar of State Papers relating to English Affairs* existing in the Venetian archives appeared in 1910, and covers the years 1619-1621. The extent to which they elucidate the European policy of James I. is admirably brought out in the prefaces of Mr. A. B. Hinds, and these papers also throw great light on the history of English trade in the Mediterranean. New materials for the diplomatic history of the reign of Charles I. and William III. have also been lately published in the *Reports of the Historical MSS. Commission* on the Manuscripts of Lord Denbigh (part V., 1911) and on the MSS. of the Marquis of Bath (Vol. III., 1908). Mr. Edmundson's *Anglo-Dutch Rivalry, 1600-1653*, is an admirable summary of the relations of England and Holland which ought to be in the hands of all students of English history. The only other recent contributions of value to the study of English foreign policy under the Stuarts are Dr. C. Brinkmann's articles on the relations of England and Germany, and Mr. Schoolcraft's article on England and Denmark, 1660-1667, both published in the *English Historical Review* (1909 and 1910).

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