

despatches which we think are not printed by Sir Harris Nicholas. It might be worth while for Professor Laughton to submit these volumes to careful examination.

O. B.

*A History of the Indian Mutiny, and of the Disturbances which accompanied it among the Civil Population.* By T. R. E. HOLMES. Second edition, revised. (London: W. H. Allen & Co. 1885.)

WE congratulate Mr. Holmes on the early appearance of a second edition of his work. He has attained a well-deserved success. The subject, in spite of its 'horrors' and other repulsive aspects, cannot but have an undying interest—indeed, a strange fascination. But the exhaustive narratives of Mr. Kaye and Colonel Malleeson, however valuable, and to the specialist indispensable, are certainly rather formidable to the general reader. Mr. Holmes has confined himself to a single, though a portly and well-packed volume. He has been industrious in accumulating materials of very diverse kinds and value; he has sifted his evidence with much discrimination, and in an independent and truth-loving spirit; he has told his complicated story clearly, forcibly, and with due regard to the relative importance of its several parts; and his tone throughout, though earnest and at times enthusiastic, is manly, and happily free from what Carlyle would call 'shrieking.' His battle pieces are sometimes very animated; his local sketches, though composed from books, vivid and picturesque. He has also drawn, with much freedom and sharpness, the characters of the chief actors, civil and military, in the great drama, at least on the English side. Opinions of course will differ, even among the best informed, as to the justice of these very confidently expressed estimates. But Mr. Holmes' judgment appears to us generally sound, and his good faith always beyond question; though it might have been better to relegate the whole Taylor v. Halliday controversy to the appendix. These personalities seem rather out of place—at least too profuse—in the text of the narrative. Phrases occur which are open to objection; thus, 'dusky warriors were to be seen loafing about' (p. 220). No one knows better than Mr. Holmes that it is possible to be graphic without being slangy. On the other hand, when, perorating at the end of a chapter, he soars into the *style soutenu*, why disfigure an impressive passage by an inaccurate word? 'The tramp of his legions, and the thunder of his artillery were sending forth a message of doom to rebels and mutineers' (p. 486). The great Mr. Wordy, it is true, much affected 'the legions of Napoleon;' but such flowers of rhetoric are best left to him. Again, when our author says that Mr. Forjett 'had been born and bred in India,' he misses a notable circumstance in his antecedents. Mr. Forjett was an Eurasian, and possessed the special aptitudes of both races, as he had previously shown, by tracking with native ingenuity, and repressing with European energy, a system of nocturnal violence prevalent in the then unlighted streets and roads of Bombay. It may be questioned whether Mr. Holmes is not too lenient to the perpetrators of unjust and cruel deeds in the suppression of the Mutiny. We do not mean that he shirks the facts, though he does not mention that Neill is said to have compelled Brahmins to wipe up the

blood of the Cawnpore victims ; and he distinctly condemns Hodson's shooting the princes. Extreme allowance must undoubtedly be made for sharp practice under the circumstances. But we think that more explicit and emphatic censure would not have been superfluous on other occasions. The summary sketch of earlier Anglo-Indian history, and the inquiry into the causes of the outbreak, are carefully and judiciously executed, though we are inclined to believe that there was more of design, and less of mere panic, in the explosion than would be inferred from the narrative before us. As a whole the book is a thoroughly good one, well-informed, well-proportioned, and written in so attractive a style, and with such an amount of detail, as to constitute a very interesting, and a fairly adequate account of one of the most remarkable crises in history.

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All students of English history will congratulate themselves on the completion, after twelve years' delay, of the 'Syllabus in English of Rymer's *Fœdera*' (volume iii: Appendix and Index. Published under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, 1885). The first two volumes appeared under the editorship of the late Sir THOMAS DUFFUS HARDY (whose name is still printed on the title-page of the third) so long ago as 1869 and 1878. They are too well known for it to be necessary to say more than that they contain a condensed notice in chronological order of every instrument printed in the several editions of the '*Fœdera*.' The convenience of thus giving a full table of contents adapted to four editions three of which differ from one another in the division of volumes and in pagination—and all of them referred to promiscuously by modern historians—is at once apparent, and the utility of the '*Syllabus*' is increased by the fact that it takes account of errors in date, &c., which have been corrected since Rymer's time. A list of these corrections, as well as a long but inevitable table of errata, is prefixed to the third volume, to which we now call attention. This also contains a short catalogue of the volumes of transcripts from British and foreign libraries and archives made early in this century for the purposes of the last (or '*Record*') edition of the '*Fœdera*,' which was intended to be the definitive edition of the work, but which broke down about half-way through. The transcripts are preserved in the Record Office. Except for these minor sections, which make up the appendix to the whole work, the third volume is entirely devoted to a general index to the '*Syllabus*,' a quite indispensable addition, which seems to be well and accurately compiled, though brevity has perhaps been studied to an excess. We do not think this index, which only fills 478 pages, at all '*inconveniently large*,' as the editor states on the first page, having apparently miscalculated the length to which it would extend. At the same time it will be admitted that it would have been difficult to enlarge its compass without including a wide range of subjects which would necessitate a very considerable increase of bulk. The index as it stands is complete so far as names of persons and places (excluding only those from which documents are dated) are concerned ; it is only to a small extent an *index rerum*. Within its range it cannot fail to be exceedingly useful.