

doubt when the available testimony does not justify a positive conclusion. His own estimate of Danton comes about midway between Taine's and Aulard's. That Danton had no principle and thought all things permissible in time of revolution he frankly admits. On the other hand, M. Madelin does full justice to the more human side of Danton's character, his strong family affection, his capacity for friendship, his placability, and the qualities which made the irreproachable Royer-Collard pronounce him magnanimous. M. Madelin's Danton is both a patriot and a statesman, but not so eminently respectable as Aulard's. On particular points in dispute M. Madelin sums up, as a rule, both carefully and equitably. He comes to the conclusion that we cannot positively reject the charge of corrupt gain so often brought against Danton. He inclines to think that Danton did receive money from the court, although he does not believe that Danton gave anything in return. He thinks that, when in office, Danton, who was habitually careless and lavish, and probably never kept accounts, may have spent as his own money belonging to the public. He thinks, too, that Danton exercised no control over subordinates, who in some cases were grossly dishonest. In discussing the alleged growth of Danton's private fortune during the Revolution, M. Madelin, it should be noted, states the facts quite differently from M. Aulard in his recent work, *Les Grands Orateurs de la Révolution*. When considering the problem of Danton's responsibility for the September massacres, M. Madelin weighs the evidence with equal care, and infers that Danton did connive, although he did no more.

F. C. M.

The twenty-third volume of M. F.-A. Aulard's *Recueil des Actes du Comité de Salut Public avec la Correspondance officielle des Représentants en Mission* (Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1913), which covers the dates 10 May (21 floréal) to 2 June 1795 (14 prairial, an III), has, as its central point of interest, the insurrection of 1 prairial. At home, the government, which was still in the hands of the Comité de Salut Public, was experiencing the difficulties of the *via media* between royalism and terrorism. At Tours only had it been successful. 'Le royalisme est proscrit, le fanatisme impuissant, le terrorisme abattu.' When the Jacobin prisoners were lynched at Lyons, it was said in the Convention that 'les patriotes sont égorgés'. But after the strong measures taken by the committee to put down by the military the Jacobin insurrection of 1 prairial in Paris and that of a few days earlier at Toulon, the report from Lyons was that 'on continue d'égorger ici les terroristes . . . presque journaliers'. Merlin of Thionville wrote from Strasbourg on 14 prairial, 'Continuez, braves collègues, à frapper autour de vous. On dit ici que vous ménagez Carnot et Lindet parce que vous ne pouvez pas vous passer de leurs talents'. At the same time, daily reports from the *représentants en mission* showed that the pacification of the Chouans and Vendéens was illusory and the defeat of their forces a serious military problem since '2000 d'entre eux sont capables d'occuper et de fatiguer 6000 des nôtres'. From Luxeuil came the news that a fresh Vendée was beginning in the departments of Haute-Saône and Vosges, and in Provence the White Terror was assuming alarming proportions. As regards the armies, that of the Pyrenees 'n'a

que le héroïsme', the army of Sambre-et-Meuse was only just saved from starvation, from Utrecht came the report, 'Nous avons ici des bataillons belges et liégeois que tous les généraux redoutent d'avoir avec eux, tant leur esprit est mauvais.' It is surprising to find that the army of the Alps and Italy was well armed, well fed, well clothed, and well disciplined. Though the treaty of the Hague with Holland was signed on 17 May, the negotiations belong to the period covered by the previous volume. Negotiations with Spain were proceeding through Barthélemy at Bâle, but no details are given. The most interesting document in the whole volume is a very outspoken letter from Merlin of Thionville to Merlin of Douai, written on 12 May, advising that peace should be made with the emperor on the condition that he should cede all rights in the Low Countries in exchange for Bavaria. This was contrary to the policy of Barthélemy of isolating the empire from the emperor under the hegemony of Prussia. Merlin had no illusions about the position of the Republic.

Ce sont de grandes phrases que ces mots—faire la paix grandement et noblement. Nous n'aurons de paix avec les rois que celle que dictera la nécessité. . . . Nous n'avons ni constitution, ni gouvernement, le royalisme s'agite, le fanatisme rallumés ses torches, les espérances des traîtres qui ont abandonné leur patrie renaissent, et cependant l'Europe est à nos genoux. Le monde nous demande la paix.

Unanswerable as this indictment is, the impression left by the twenty-third volume of this remarkable series is that a slight improvement is shown on the conditions in the twenty-second volume, due in great part to the conclusion of peace with Holland and the firm policy of the committee towards insurrections, whether royalist or Jacobin. M. A. P.

In *La Statistique agricole de 1814* (Paris : Rieder, 1914) the Historical Committee of the Ministry of Education has published—unfortunately without an index—a most important series of reports from prefects and sub-prefects, drawn up in reply either to a circular issued by Becquey, director-general of agriculture, in December 1814, or to an earlier inquiry of 1812. The series is very incomplete. Some departmental archivists, it appears, made no reply to the requests of the committee; many departmental archives did not contain what was wanted, and the national archives could only make good deficiencies in a very few cases. The result is that there are details from only twenty-three departments, and not by any means always from each arrondissement. Fortunately, however, most French soils, climates, and racial areas are represented—the Alps, the Pyrenees, the river basins of Gascony, the valleys of the Rhône, Loire, Seine, and Marne, the heart of Burgundy, and the Breton and Norman coasts. Had the results been more complete there would have been, in spite of the rather perfunctory work of some of the reporters, a French record almost fit to stand side by side with the great contemporary series of English county agricultural reports. As it is there is much material for comparison with those reports, with Arthur Young's travels in France, or with descriptive agricultural works of the mid-nineteenth century, such as those of Léonce de Lavergne. Among the matters of general economic interest dealt with are housing, crop rotations, enclosures, the average sizes of holdings and types of tenure, the survival of rights of