

After a brief sketch of Widdin's history in classical and medieval times he gives us a glimpse of that strange figure Pasvan Oglu, who exactly a century ago made himself practically independent ruler of Widdin, and thence defied the armies of the sultan. We have, too, a graphic sketch of the career of Omar Pasha, who was an Austrian subject by birth and a Christian by religion, but deserted, embraced Islām, and was living at Widdin in the thirties as a clerk and tutor. Other quaint characters of the narrative are Sam Morris, the unknown Englishman, who fell at Calafat in 1854; the strange prisoner of Widdin, who was personated by one man after another; and 'Ingliz Chingeni,' the Hampshire gipsy, who turned hangman at this old Turkish fortress. The day before Russia declared war in 1877 the author arrived at Widdin, in the capacity of 'a lieutenant in the Ottoman infantry,' and had thus the advantage of taking part in many of the events which he describes. From his position in the Turkish army he naturally inclines towards the Turkish side, but many of his judgments are singularly sound. Thus his Roumanian experience has convinced him that that country will be 'a formidable barrier against the future southward progress of the Tsars,' and he pays full respect to the merits of those against whom he fought. One or two slips of the pen may be pointed out. Thus the Bulgarian Tsar Simeon's proper title was 'Tsar of the Bulgars and autocrat of the Greeks,' as stated by Jireček at p. 168 of his well-known work. The use of the term 'Amselplain' for the field of Kossovo is misleading; a German author would write *Amselfeld*, the English equivalent of which and of the original serb, *Kossovopolje*, is 'plain of blackbirds.' The actual declaration of war by Montenegro against Turkey in 1876 did not take place till July, and it is not correct to say that Serbia 'demanded the annexation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.' What really happened was that Serbia desired, and still desires, at least a part of Bosnia, while Montenegro wanted at any rate a portion of the Herzegovina. The real grievances which existed in the latter country were quite sufficient to justify the insurrection even without those Russian intrigues of which the author speaks. Finally, the 'correct' attitude of Turkey at the time of the union of the two Bulgarias in 1885 was not entirely due to 'humanity and indulgence,' but largely to the sultan's fear of assassination, which made him unwilling to diminish the number of troops at his capital. The value of the book is increased by five good maps and plans, a list of authorities, a glossary, and a table of dates.

W. MILLER.

The great importance of the Stowe collection is too well known to historical students for it to be necessary for us to do more than call attention to the admirable catalogue which appeared some time ago, but which has only lately reached our hands (*Catalogue of the Stowe Manuscripts in the British Museum*, Vol. I: Text. Vol. II: Index. Printed by order of the Trustees, 1895, 1896.) It includes all the manuscripts which came to the British Museum, with the exception of a few oriental volumes which are kept in the department of oriental printed books and manuscripts; but it does not include the entire Stowe collection as it left the earl of Ashburnham's possession thirteen years ago, for the valuable Irish manuscripts were then deposited in the library of the Royal

Irish Academy at Dublin. The manuscripts have been re-arranged in classes, but a table at the end of the first volume shows at a glance the former numbers by which they were known. The descriptions are drawn up on the same general principles as the catalogues of additional manuscripts, but are somewhat more detailed, and the index, as usual, is a model of completeness.

An uncommonly interesting lecture, entitled *Cicero im Wandel der Jahrhunderte* (Leipzig: Teubner, 1897), by Professor T. Zielinski, was read to the Historical Society of the University of St. Petersburg *a propos* of the two-thousandth birthday of Cicero; but, as the author remarks, his hero is one of those 'personages whose real biography begins with the day of their death,' one of those who not only reflect like a mirror the spirit of their age, and not only give an immediate impulse to the culture of after-times, but go with that culture now in closer, now in looser contact on all its further path of development, and from whom it is always finding something fresh to learn or borrow. To work out this idea in the case of Cicero leads to a very curious study of the successive and varying reasons which made that author acceptable or even important to all later ages which were lettered enough to understand him; and the rapid survey of two thousand years is safe at least against any charge of monotony. In a certain sense the study reminds us of the parts played by Virgil in the middle ages; but while Virgil was made to assume characters remarkably unlike his own, there have always been good reasons why Cicero was found to be 'the man of the hour,' the man whom the hour required. The lecture is already so compressed that we despair of compressing it further, but we may just point out that the author sees three great 'periods of eruption' since Cicero's time, three epochs at which the civilisation of Europe was threatened, and from each of which it came forth fertilised and developed. To the first of these, the time of the diffusion of Christianity, Cicero the moralist and the philosopher had a special interest. The second, the period of the Renaissance, valued Cicero the stylist, the letter-writer, the free-thinker. The period of the Aufklärung found out the negative or sceptical side of Cicero's speculations, while the revolutionary leaders admired the statesman of the republic and discovered the orator. The discussion of the first period travels to some extent on the lines of G. Boissier's account (*La Fin du Paganisme*, 1891) of the attitude of early Christianity to the Roman system of education; in the second and third the author is traversing ground less familiar but not less interesting. He rather exaggerates the importance of Cicero in his lifetime, but in no way overrates the influence of the dead writer on generations that came after him. Herr Zielinski's style is agreeable and not without a certain sparkle.

F. T. R.

The new edition of John Richard Green's *Making of England* (Two volumes. London: Macmillan & Co. 1897) appears, though the fact is not stated, to be a reprint; even slight irregularities in the references in footnotes remain unchanged. For this readers will be grateful.