

Teachers of Church History have long needed a source book, where the essential parts of the most important sources of church history were not only brought together but for American students also translated. The work under review is intended for professors and students in American universities and seminaries, and is admirably suited to its purpose.

In a task as complex and difficult as the selection, introduction, arrangement and translation of extracts from the extensive source literature of church history there is room for much difference of opinion as to both the selection of material and its arrangement. As far as the reviewer has had opportunity to prove the book the work has been well done. The selections have been judiciously made and really illustrate; the best text has been followed and the translation has been very well done; the introductions contain valuable information of various kinds, usually reliable; the arrangement is chronological and topical and there is occasionally an estimate of the value of the material which will be helpful to students who are threading their way through the subject for the first time. Of course, a student could not get an adequate conception of the church history of the period covered from this volume alone; used with a manual, as intended by the author, it will be a powerful aid to independence of study and vividness of conception. The student can be thrown on his own responsibility in the interpretation of sources. It will contribute markedly to the use of the seminar method, the method of investigation. The volume deserves wide use in the seminaries and universities of the country.

It is to be hoped the author will continue his work in a succeeding volume or volumes, at least through the Middle Ages where the student is far more helpless than in the earlier centuries where most of the material has long been accessible in English, though not in the compact and classified form here given us.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

The Cambridge Medieval History. Vol. II. The Rise of the Saracens and the Foundation of the Western Empire. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1913. Pp. xxiv+891.

The eight volumes which are to constitute the Cambridge Medieval History are to cover the period from Constantine to the close of the Middle Ages. It is to be a comprehensive history of Europe, Western Asia and North Africa in those periods, but does not deal with sections which were not in some way connected with European history. It is not therefore, a universal history. It does undertake to fill a place which is not covered by any other book. Gibbon's "Decline and Fall" deals with the Byzantine empire and Europe as related to that empire. Bryce is brief; Lavissee and Rambaud do not devote anything like the space to the period which is proposed in this work. The work is being done upon the same general plan and along the same lines as in the Cambridge Modern History.

Volume II. covers a most obscure and difficult period, Sources are scant and confused, chronology is uncertain, the world was on the move. Peoples flit about in the uncertain light of dawning civilization in the most confusing and exasperating way. Nothing is stable and enduring, everything is fluid. Partly for this reason the period covered by Vol. II. has been little studied and little understood. Even now in the advanced state of investigation many serious gaps have to be filled, if filled at all, by the historic imagination.

The twenty-two chapters are by nearly as many men. Not only are the various external movements of the history followed, but still more space is given to the institutions of society—religious, political and social. Indeed it is on this side of the historian's task that the most satisfactory work has been done and the greatest contribution has been made. The chapters differ much in character. Most of them are not only replete with information, but much attention has been given to the literary qualities of the work. The material in most of the chapters is admirably sifted, arranged and expressed. This is not true of all of them, however, as an effort to get something out of the chapter on the expansion of the Slavs will quickly show the reader.

The volume is provided with excellent and elaborate bibliography, index and maps. It is decidedly the most valuable volume in print on the period treated.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.