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Neale, we have nothing of Theodore's work in the English language. Migne has given us the only important, although incomplete, edition of his letters, addresses, and controversial epistles, since supplemented by Cozza-Luzi; the present volume may suggest that an English edition would be of value to the church historian.

It is restful to turn from the stormy public career of Theodore to the contemplation of his quiet though somewhat interrupted retirement at Studium, and his work in hymnography and calligraphy. The chapter upon the problem of the ecclesiastical Greek scansion of his period, and the origin of tonic rhythm, with its struggle between quantity and accent, is especially interesting if only as showing how the combativeness of Theodore was exhibited even in questions purely literary.

The literary services of the Studium and its daughter communities as copyists of manuscripts may, we learn, have originated in the neat and businesslike handwriting which Theodore and Plato, his uncle and predecessor as abbot, may have acquired in youth in the government offices while still in the imperial service.

In a future edition the author will doubtless correct some errors and omissions in the index, and a few mistakes of fact and nomenclature pardonable in an author not personally acquainted with the Orient.

H. H. SPOER.

The Political History of England. Edited by WILLIAM HUNT, D.Litt., and REGINALD L. POOLE, M.A. In twelve volumes. Volume II. *The History of England from the Norman Conquest to the Death of John, 1066-1216.* By GEORGE BURTON ADAMS, Professor of History in Yale University. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1905. Pp. x, 473.)

PROFESSOR ADAMS'S volume is another mile-stone on the road which the scientific study of history has travelled during the past century. Although it is destined to render important services to students and to those who have neither the leisure nor the inclination to master the specialized and technical treatises upon which it rests, its greatest interest lies perhaps in the measure of progress and the forecast of future development which may be derived from it. The book contains little that is new, in the sense of not before having seen the light, and indeed the political history of England in the Middle Ages can offer little novelty when dealt with in isolation, even though the material be treated with the rigorously scientific method that Professor Adams has so consistently employed. One is driven to the conclusion that a fresh synthesis can be attained only by a reinterpretation of the authorities that shall rest upon a conception of the origins of English history very different from that which now holds the field. It is not a question of points of detail, nor even of the history of single institutions, but of the whole conception of the elements out of which, and the processes by which, English national consciousness and English self-government

developed. Primitive democracy, the predominance and sufficiency of the Teutonic element, and its unbroken evolution are the ideas in which most of us have been trained and by which our thinking is hampered or at least conditioned. And yet every year it is becoming more apparent that the system constructed upon these ideas requires, if not complete reconstruction, at least a very serious readjustment. Until this preliminary need is met and, as far as may be, satisfied, a reinterpretation of English history seems scarcely possible, and even a redigestion hardly to be a matter for reasonable hope. The most that can be done is to make a clear, conscientious statement of what knowledge we possess, a statement that shall gather up the results of the criticism and investigation of single questions, and try, by means of them, to dispel old illusions and to supply doctrine which at present seems nearer the truth. This is the line that Professor Adams has followed, and he has brought to his task of *vulgarisation* rich learning, sane judgment, and an objectivity so sensitively alert as to suggest that he is perpetually attended by the shade of an angry German methodologist.

The plan of the work, for which no doubt the editors are responsible, contributes by its chronological, its almost annalistic, disposition of the material to the general impression of the book which we have just now recorded. The analytical table of contents and the very adequate index make it easy and pleasant to use. The bibliographical arrangements, on the other hand, leave something to be desired, although, contrary to the unfortunate practice in books of this sort (notably in the *Cambridge Modern History*), a limited number of foot-notes have been permitted, and have in the present case been so wisely used as to make one wish that a much greater freedom had been granted. But the discussion of the original authorities and more important modern works (pp. 448-458) adds very little to the knowledge that is now generally available in Professor Gross's invaluable *Sources and Literature*, although there is a good note on Freeman (p. 456) and, in the remarks on Miss Norgate's *England under the Angevin Kings* and *John Lackland*, a touch of rich (if unconscious) humor combined with sound criticism that fully deserves quotation: "In the first book the influence of John Richard Green is clearly traceable both in the style and in the selection of facts for treatment. . . . The second book is a sober and careful study of John's career" (p. 457). But Professor Adams has excluded from his bibliography "the long list of monographs and special studies, English and foreign, which alone make possible the writing of a history of this age". One cannot help regretting that he had not referred his readers more often to Professor Gross's *Sources* and thus found space to include at least the contributions of this kind that have appeared since 1900.

Readers will be interested in Professor Adams's rather disparaging judgment of Henry II. (see particularly pp. 290-291, 351). He writes very much under the influence of Mr. Round, and in expressing the opinion that Henry's system was rather a development and expansion of

his grandfather's work than an original contribution he is really formulating the view toward which all of that great scholar's investigations have tended. The treatment of the thorny questions connected with the conquest of Ireland and the Bull *Laudabiliter* (pp. 263 *et seqq.*) is particularly sane and reasonable. In his judgment of the Great Charter, Professor Adams follows in the main the opinion of Professor Maitland, while repeating the views which he himself expressed in these pages six years ago.¹ Mr. McKechnie's laborious work (*Magna Carta*, Glasgow, 1905) and Mr. Jenks's vagaries (*Independent Review*, November, 1904, IV. 260-273) probably came too late to be used.

In a work so long and so full of detail some points naturally present themselves for criticism. In dealing with the anarchy in Stephen's reign, Professor Adams follows the view expressed by Mr. Round in *Geoffrey de Mandeville* (1892), but he does not discuss or even refer to the divergent opinion put forward by Mr. H. W. C. Davis (*English Historical Review*, October, 1903, XVIII. 630-641). We do not think that Mr. Davis made out his case, but his argument deserves attention. Again, the intrusion of William Cumin into the see of Durham is passed over in silence, although it seems to have been part of the general policy of the Empress and her uncle the King of Scots and as such to deserve mention. Professor Adams's description of the origin and nature of scutage is scarcely successful; the question is admittedly difficult and obscure, but one may fairly doubt whether a beginner would derive much light from the present statement of it (pp. 266 *et seqq.*). With regard to the claim of the Angevin kings in the twelfth century to be seneschals of France by reason of their tenure of the country of Anjou, Professor Adams seems to be following Bémont without giving any indication that the historical value of the treatise *De Senescalcia Franciae*, upon which this claim rests, has been very much discussed and by certain scholars entirely denied (p. 346). Great stress is laid on the influence which the ideas of chivalry, current in France in the twelfth century, exerted upon the conduct of Henry II. in general and in particular with regard to the coronation of the young Henry and the endowment of his other sons (pp. 302 *et seqq.*). Professor Adams even writes of "the courtly virtue of 'largesse,' which [Henry II.] followed with some restraint where money was concerned" (p. 304). Even a cursory examination of the *Pipe Roll of 1175-1176*, published in 1904, would have suggested that restraint was a more potent force in Henry's character than largess where money was concerned (cf. *English Historical Review*, July, 1905, pp. 558-560). John's marriage with Isabella of Angoulême is described as "a blunder in morals, in which, . . . by an act of passion and perfidy, he gave his antagonist a better excuse than he could have hoped for when he was at last ready to renew the war" (p. 397). We have no desire to defend the morals of John, but we wish that Professor Adams had taken account of Miss

¹ "The Critical Period of English Constitutional History," *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*, V. 643-658.

Norgate's suggestion that the marriage had been originally proposed by Philip and was carried out by John as part of a considered policy connected with the internal conditions of Poitou, with the "deliberate purpose of goading [the Lusignans] into some outrageous course of action which might enable him to recover La Marche and ruin them completely" (*John Lackland*, 75-77). Professor Adams writes, "the Great Charter was drawn up and sealed on June 15, 1215" (p. 437). The point is discussed by Mr. McKechnie (*Magna Carta*, 48-49), who makes out a strong case for the view that several days were consumed in negotiation, so that the charter did not pass the seal until June 19; and even if Mr. McKechnie's book came too late to be used, this point had already been raised by Blackstone.

The statement that Matilda was crowned "Queen of Germany" (p. 155), and the description of John's second primate as "Stephen of Langton" (p. 409), are surely slips. Misprints are uncommon, indeed we have noticed only three (pp. 244, 372, 377). The rendering of *legalis homo* by "legal man" strikes one as both awkward and misleading.

It must be confessed that the whole book is without literary grace or adornment, but serious and even pedestrian as the style is, it is neither dry nor repellent. Still occasional lapses occur, and we cannot pass without a protest such a sentence as this: "Coming to the door of the church, he knelt and prayed; at the spot where Thomas fell, he wept and kissed it" (p. 310). Examples of the same sort of thing may be found on pp. 263, 308, 358, 410.

We have dealt much in criticism, but it would be unjust at once to the excellence of Professor Adams's work and to our own sense of its value to conclude without a word of appreciation of the service which he has rendered to students of English history, whether they be beginners or teachers. His book is informed with a large-minded, conscientious desire to see the past as it actually was and to represent it truthfully to men of his own day.

GAILLARD THOMAS LAPSLEY.

Forum Turolii, Regnante in Aragonia Adefonso Rege, anno Dominice Nativitatis mclxxvi. Transcripcion y estudio preliminar de FRANCISCO AZNAR Y NAVARRO. (Zaragoza: Cecilio Gasca. 1905. Pp. xlvi, 300.)

THE series of which this is the second volume—the *Colección de Documentos para el Estudio de la Historia de Aragón*—gives promise of affording valuable assistance to the student of the mediæval period, not only in Spain but in general. The first volume, issued in 1904 by Don Eduardo Ibarra y Rodriguez (see this REVIEW, X. 915), contained an interesting collection of *Documentos correspondientes al Reinado de Ramiro I. desde 1034 hasta 1063 años*, and the present one is even more valuable.