
Review

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study of the chapter on Roman education of the day—its many defects, and its likeness to, and difference from, the education of to-day. Indeed the whole book is most heartily to be welcomed.

L. C. P.

THE MIDLAND SEPTS AND THE PALE. An account of the Early Septs and Later Settlers of the King's County and of Life in the English Pale. By F. R. Montgomery Hitchcock, B.D. (Dublin: Sealy, Bryers, and Walker.) 3s. 6d.

The author has adopted an interesting and effective way of presenting some chapters in the history of Ireland. He has taken his own locality as a centre, and tells the story from that point of view ; but his book is not mere topography, it deals with the whole country, and just gives a certain prominence to those episodes in which the general history was influenced by the behaviour of the Midland Septs. In the first chapter he sketches the various immigrations by which, according to tradition, Ireland was peopled. He then goes on to tell the story of the O'Connors and O'Carrolls, with many references to other families, both English and Irish ; and in doing so he shows industry in collecting his facts, and ability in presenting them. The chief criticism that might be made is that the story, as the author presents it, would lead us to the conclusion that there was scarcely anything to be found in the country but turbulence and crime. He tells us that "Irish annals read in some places like a series of Newgate Calendars," and quotes with approval the analysis of the Annals of the Four Masters for the years 1500-1534, made by Professor Richey, and referred to by Mrs. Green in her recent book. In this analysis Richey gives the number of battles and murders, and goes on to say, "During this period, on the other hand, there is no allusion to the enactment of any law, the founding of any town, monastery, or church." If the author had tested Professor Richey's statement he would have found that it was not correct. The annalists do allude to the enactment of laws ; for they tell of Maguire, famous for "regulation both in Church and State"; and of Hugh Roe O'Donnell, whose "jurisdiction, law, and rule" were so good that "there was no defence made in Tirconnell in his time, except to shut the door against the wind." They also tell of the founding of Banduff and Dunmanway. They chronicle the establishment of the monasteries of Donegal and Crosspatrick, and of the Observants of Cavan. They tell also of the building of churches ; for they relate how Bishop Brady, "after having consecrated many churches," died at Dromahair, where he had gone to

consecrate a church. Besides this, they tell of a bridge being built across the Shannon, and they record the deaths of scholars, poets, historians, and promoters of learning, as well as of men famous for hospitality, piety, charity, and wisdom. It will thus be seen that battle and murder were by no means the only things that there were to record. The work closes with three very interesting chapters on "Clonmacnoise and Delvin," "More recent Events in the County," and "Irish Customs and Curiosities"; and there is an appendix, by Mr. Thomas Ulick Sadleir, on "Some King's County Families in the Eighteenth Century." Those who have any taste for the study of Irish history should procure this book. They will find in it both instruction and entertainment.

J. H.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY. By J. A. Robinson, Dean of Westminster, and M. R. James, Provost of King's College, Cambridge. (Cambridge University Press.) 5s. net.

This volume contains a good deal more than the above title printed on the back and on the front outside-cover would seem to indicate. The five chapters, into which it is divided cover the following ground.

Chapter I. gives much information about the making and keeping of books in Westminster Abbey, A.D. 1160-1660.

Chapter II. catalogues and describes the extant MS. remains of the old monastic library, so far as they have been identified. They are 29 in number, lying in various public libraries in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, and Dublin. As the Westminster library possessed no press-marks identification is very difficult, and probably no other living expert could have carried it as far as it has been carried here by Dr. James. Future discoveries may still be made by him, or by some one else.

Chapter III. prints and compares three much longer lists of MSS. which belonged to the library between 1623 and 1694, all of which perished in a fire in the latter year.

Chapter IV. describes 33 MSS. belonging to the library at the present day.

Chapter V. describes seven Westminster chartularies, of which four are in the Abbey library, two at the British Museum, and one cannot now be traced.

We have nothing to add to and nothing to criticize in the contents of these chapters, as might be expected in the case of the work of their accomplished writers, except this:—Would it not have added to the completeness of the volume to have had a list and description of the MS. service books once belonging to the Abbey, though not kept in the library?