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A table of contents for *The Expository Times* can be found here:

[https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles\\_expository-times\\_01.php](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_expository-times_01.php)

pdfs are named: [Volume]\_[Issue]\_[1<sup>st</sup> page of article].pdf

racial entities, whose wax and wane was continual but did not affect anything more than the precise direction of the policy of Assyria. For instance, in the middle of the second millennium, Ashur was clearly under the domination of Hanigalbat, a kingdom lying east of the middle of the Taurus range, whereas later it was Mitanni and the Hittite power itself, or, later still, the Urartians of Armenia, who constituted the danger. Into the internal and mutual affairs of all these it is impossible here to enter, though the history of the Hittite kings who succeeded Shubbiluliuma, their relations with their neighbours, even with the Egypt of Rameses

II., are all set forth at large in their treaties with these states, documents which surely form as notable a corpus of international law as any age could produce. With so advanced a civilization had Assyria to deal in her early days, and at first she was unequal to the task. But, after Ashur-uballit and his third successor, Adad-nirari I., had finally asserted the superiority of the growing state, Assyria never looked back, despite sporadic periods of partial decline, and, if she finally fell, we shall not impute it to lack of virtue in her people or policy in her rulers, if we consider what a world it was that she had so long been bearing upon her shoulders.

## Literature.

### THE CAMBRIDGE MEDIEVAL HISTORY.

It is with peculiar gratification that we receive the third volume of *The Cambridge Medieval History* (Cambridge: at the University Press; 50s. net). Between the second and third volumes came the War, and Dr. Whitney's apology for the delay is readily accepted. The fear was that the War would end the enterprise. And that fear was greatly strengthened by the death of the principal Editor, Professor H. M. Gwatkin. But here it is, and not in any sense unworthy of the first or the second volume. Dr. Gwatkin's place has been filled by Dr. J. R. Tanner and Mr. C. W. Previté-Orton.

What is it that makes the Medieval History a greater book than the Modern? It is greater: we cannot conceive a denial. We had given the credit to the superb genius of its Chief Editor. And we are not yet convinced that we did mistake. For he is here in person still, and when not in person, in spirit. To set up a standard is half the accomplishment. What would the Tabernacle have been without the pattern showed in the Mount?

But the work was not only more grandly conceived; it has been, we think, more greatly executed. There is firmer individual footing; closer co-operation also; above all, there is an attainment to readableness throughout which the earlier work never reached. That must be the doing of the Editors. For let it be understood that an Editor can always secure grammatical English, and even

good style, without sacrificing one jot of his contributors' originality.

This volume deals with Germany and the Western Empire. The authors are Professor René Poupardin, Professor Louis Halphen, Mr. C. W. Previté-Orton, Mr. Austin Lane Poole, Mr. Edwin H. Holthouse, Miss Caroline M. Ryley, Professor Allen Mawer, Mr. William John Corbett, Dr. Rafael Altamira, Sir Paul Vinogradoff, Dr. Montague Rhodes James, and Professor W. R. Lethaby.

To Sir Paul Vinogradoff has been entrusted that most difficult subject, Feudalism. We think we can detect advance in intelligibility beyond Maitland, advance also in esteem. 'The lord was a monarch in the manor, but a monarch fettered by a customary constitution and by contractual rights. He was often strong enough to break through these customs and agreements, to act in an arbitrary way, to indulge in cruelty and violence. But in the great majority of cases feelings and caprice gave way to reasonable considerations. A reasonable lord could not afford to disregard the standards of fairness and justice which were set up by immemorial custom, and a knowledge of the actual conditions of life. A mean line had to be struck between the claims of the rulers and the interests of the subjects, and along this mean line by-laws were framed and customs grew up which protected the tenantry even though it was forsaken by the king's judges. This unwritten constitution was safeguarded not only by the apprehension that its infringement might scatter the rustic population on

whose labour the well-being of the lord and his retainers after all depended, but also by the necessity of keeping within bounds the power of the manorial staff of which the lord had to avail himself. This staff comprised the *stewards* and *seneschals* who had to act as overseers of the whole, to preside in the manorial courts, to keep accounts, to represent the lord on all occasions; the *reeves* who, though chosen by the villagers, acted as a kind of middlemen between them and the lord and had to take the lead in the organisation of all the rural services; the *beadles* and *radknights* or *radmen* who had to serve summonses and to carry orders; the various warders, such as the hayward, who had to superintend hedges, the woodward for pastures and wood, the sower and the thresher; the *graves* of moors and dykes, who had to look after canals, ditches and drainage; the *ploughmen and herdsmen*, employed for the use of the domanial plough-teams and herds. All these *ministri* had to be kept in check by a well-advised landlord, and one of the most efficient checks on them was provided by the formation of *manorial custom*. It was in the interest of the lord himself to strengthen the customary order which prevented grasping stewards and sergeants from ruining the peasantry by extortions and arbitrary rule. This led to the great *enrolments* of custom as to holdings and services, of which many have come down to us from the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; they were a safeguard for the interests both of the tenants and of the lord.

But we need not quote. It is not by extracts that this work is to be judged. Let us note that one of the most useful as well as interesting of its chapters is the Introduction, by Professor J. P. Whitney. The maps are, as formerly, in a separate case.

#### FERRERO.

Signor Guglielmo Ferrero is the modern Gibbon. He has written a history in five volumes on the greatness and decline of Rome. He has style and he has scholarship. And he is courageous enough to write ancient history and make it a model for to-day. A recent book of his on *The Ruin of the Ancient Civilization and the Triumph of Christianity* has been translated by the Hon. Lady Whitehead (Putman; 12s. 6d.).

Signor Ferrero finds more than one cause for the fall of Rome, but he finds one cause more corrosive

than all the rest. It is the fact that Rome could not make up its mind between an absolute monarchy and a free democracy. Trying to combine both methods of government it failed and fell.

Then comes the moral. 'The nations have not yet realized the political results produced by the World War, quite independent of the will and the plans of the men who seemed to guide its movements. Men still reason as if it were only the day after the Treaty of Utrecht. They have seen and still see only conquerors and vanquished, as if there had taken place a mere transfer of power and prestige from certain Powers to certain other Powers. They have not yet perceived that in the month of March, 1917, one of the two political principles on which rested the whole system of social order in Europe received its first formidable blow when the revolution in Russia broke out; that it received another blow, this time a decisive and mortal one, in the month of November, 1918, when the Empire of the Hapsburgs and that of the Hohenzollerns tottered and fell. They do not see that the overthrow of the monarchical system in Europe and the discrediting of the theory of rule by divine right, is an event of enormous importance; that it completes a political crisis begun two centuries ago; and that Europe is again in danger as in the third century of finding herself without any assured principle of authority.'

What, then, would Signor Ferrero have us do? That is just what he does not tell us. He shows us very clearly the danger of the division of authority between sovereign and people, but he shows us just as clearly the danger of resting authority either upon the will of the people alone, or upon the will of the ruler alone. He sees danger ahead whatever way he turns. He leaves the Powers to solve the problem of government in Europe after the upheaval of the War, for to him the problem seems insoluble.

#### THE SCOTTISH COMMUNION OFFICE.

*The Scottish Communion Office, 1764*, with Introduction, History of the Office, Notes and Appendices, by John Dowden, D.D., LL.D., sometime Bishop of Edinburgh. New edition, seen through the Press by H. A. Wilson (Oxford: at the Clarendon Press; 14s. net).

'The first edition of this work, published in 1884, has for a good many years been "out of print, and scarce." The author had been for some time