

to the western world. The reader who is only superficially acquainted with Locke's work in philosophy and political theory is likely to be led astray by this biography, for it is rather surprising that the essential element of Locke's life, the growth of his intellectual vision and the development of his philosophy, receives relatively superficial consideration, upon the whole.

This treatment is unfortunate on two counts. First, the reader is left uncertain about the very facts of Locke's life which it is most important that he know, while at the same time he is provided with all kinds of information about Locke's expenditures for combs, candles, tips for servants, as well as the details of his relations with insignificant people. Second, it is unfortunate because Mr. Cranston would seem to be particularly fitted to the performance of the more important task. His earlier work, *Freedom: A New Analysis*, shows that he has considerable ability to handle ideas, to see relationships between seemingly separated categories, and to express these matters in clear and precise language. It is to be hoped that he will now turn his attention to the development of Locke's thought. As matters now stand, his biography provides us with a two dimensional picture of Locke, and what is missing is the essential dimension of depth.

Indiana University

Byrum E. Carter

English Historical Documents. Volume XII, Part 1, 1833-1874. Edited by G. M. Young and W. D. Handcock. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1956. Pp. xxiii, 1017. Bibliographies and index. \$15.00.)

This selection of mid-nineteenth century contemporary sources of English history is the fifth published volume of *English Historical Documents*, compiled under the general editorship of David C. Douglas. It is one of two volumes on the Victorian age. These will be the last (chronologically) of a monumental series designed "to make generally accessible a wide selection of the fundamental sources of English history" (p. iii).

Without question, teachers and students of nineteenth century English and European history will find this work invaluable. The editors have successfully achieved their aim of illustrating the "profound transformation of English society" during "the epoch of Britain's greatest influence in the world" (p. 3). Two hundred and sixty-nine documents are presented in a volume divided into twelve parts: the monarchy; parliament; natural resources and economic changes; the churches; Chartism and free trade; law, penal system, and courts; central administration; local government; the Poor Law; public health; education; industrial conditions and legislation. Imperial and foreign policy are excluded on the ground that they are well covered in other collections and that they had little effect upon the central theme of Victorian history. Irish affairs are postponed for treatment in Volume XII, Part 2. Nevertheless, the complexity of the Victorian age is vividly illustrated.

Scholarly introductions and select critical bibliographies are valuable parts of the book. There are thirteen introductions (one general and one for each of the twelve parts) and an equal number of bibliographies. The introductions provide not only information which the general reader needs to understand the documents, but interpretations which embody the best of historical scholarship; at times they contain information which is the equivalent of source material, (e.g., the explanatory notes on the principal reform bills, 1852-1866, pp. 121-123). The bibliographies should be of material assistance to all scholars, especially to serious undergraduates and to graduate students. References are made to scholarly journals as well as to books and documents.

Many of the documents deal forcefully with features of English society which are treated inadequately in the average textbook. Part XI reveals the main problems in education. The reader's attention is held by such topics as governmental assistance to elementary education for procuring competent teachers through a program of incentive and inspection, the reform of Oxford University, and the general conditions of elementary and secondary education. The documents dealing with public health (Part X) cast light on the beginnings of a new science and illustrate both the strength and the weaknesses of Edwin Chadwick, the protagonist of sanitary reform. Twenty-two pages are given to Chadwick's Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population (1842), a searching analysis. The public health and the Poor Law (Part IX) documents show that the Poor Law and its administration involved far more than efficient administration and reduction in taxes. Medical care, pauper education, and the problems presented by large-scale industrial unemployment are described.

The documents on natural resources and economic changes (Part III) provide a wealth of statistical and factual data and of other illustrative material. The readings on panics, banking, railway operation, and monopoly will fascinate students of American as well as of English history. The section on Chartism and free trade (Part V) contains selections from Peel's and Gladstone's budget speeches as well as selections from the great debates on the repeal of the Corn Laws and on the Charter. The section on industrial conditions and legislation (Part XIII) contains a well-balanced set of sources which will revise one-sided interpretations of the Industrial Revolution.

Students of present-day religious trends will find the Census Report of 1851-1853 on religious worship to be enlightening. Well-known controversial religious issues are also covered (Part IV, The Churches). Legal and court reform, prison conditions and reform, civil marriage and divorce receive adequate attention (Part VI). Molesworth's classic report on transportation is given twelve pages (pp. 513-525). A number of selections in Parts IX-XII show that contemporary observers were not oblivious to the interrelation of morals, crime and punishment, public health, education, and industrial conditions.

The well-known political and constitutional developments receive adequate documentation. Basic municipal and county problems and the work of the Metropolitan Board of Works are well illustrated (Part VIII). Civil service, army, and financial reform are described (Part

VII). The role of the monarch and parliamentary reform are well illustrated (Parts I and II).

The editors of so great an undertaking could scarcely avoid some errors of fact and judgment. Professor P. and Mrs. G. Ford are listed as P. G. Ford (p. 37). The editors might well have noted in the select general bibliography some of the pitfalls that students encounter in using the *Parliamentary Papers*. Perhaps the citations of *Parliamentary Papers* could have been improved by including the number of each paper in the references. Twenty pages are devoted to the reform of Oxford University, but no illustrations of the work of the training colleges are provided. Peel's classic speech of February 16, 1846, is so edited as to undervalue to some extent his conversion to free trade and to overrate the effect of the Irish potato famine upon his decision to press repeal of the Corn Laws. Such errors do not, however, detract from the value of the work.

All in all, this volume is a splendid collection of printed source material (principally the public records). It will be helpful to specialists in the Victorian age. It will greatly enlighten and interest students of modern history. For the teachers and students of nineteenth century English history who do not have access to adequate libraries, this volume will be indispensable; indeed, those who fail to use it will run the risk of historical ignorance.

Indiana Central College

Kenneth E. St. Clair