

THE HISTORY OF THE POPES, FROM THE CLOSE OF THE MIDDLE AGES. Vols. 30, 31, 32. By Ludwig Freiherr von Pastor. Translated by Dom Ernest Graf, O.S.B. (Kegan Paul; 16s. each.)

These latest volumes of Baron von Pastor's History cover the last half of the seventeenth century, and include the events of seven memorable Pontificates. Their German original was in the main completed before the author's death, but there were certain gaps and *lacunae* in the narrative; these missing sections have been supplied by other scholars of historical repute. It seems a pity that neither publishers nor translator give us any indication as to whether the work in its English dress has now arrived at completion or not.

The new instalment deals at great length with the Jansenist and Quietist movements, with the struggle against the absolutism of Louis XIV, and with the European War against the Turks; while incidental episodes such as the career of Christina of Sweden receive briefer but appropriate treatment. The fortunes of the English Catholics are not given in much detail, and the story of the Titus Oates plot is too cursorily dealt with. We are disappointed in the account offered of the English Dominican Cardinal, Philip Howard. Next to nothing is said about him, and what little there is is inaccurate. Howard's father was not, as stated here, Duke of Norfolk, nor he himself an English Vicar-Apostolic. The now oft-derided Macaulay would have taught the Historian of the Popes that the Holy See had no better counsellor in the difficult year of the Revolution of 1688 than Cardinal Howard, who was ever on the side of patience, calmness and moderation, and of respect for the prejudices of the English people.

As to the English translation of the History, while quite adequate and readable, it is at times distinctly odd—why need one, for example, speak of a 'clericature' when a clerkship is intended? And now and then it is so literal as to be unintelligible, as in a passage dealing with judicial reforms, when it is said that the 'course of instances' was regulated and simplified. Only a lawyer perhaps would know that this means that recourse to a higher court from one of first instance was henceforth made more easy.

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THE LETTERS OF MRS. FITZHERBERT AND CONNECTED PAPERS.
By Shane Leslie. (Burns, Oates; 15s.)

This volume is an appendix or supplement to the *Life of*