

in one country' and that his foreign policy is guided only by Russia's genuine interests. Though the description of events from the outbreak of the present war to this day is correct and the Red Dictator's words that 'revolution is not for export' are rightly reported, nevertheless the assumption that the tactics of Lenin and Trotzky to promote world revolution will not be repeated is wrong — witness the happenings in China, Spain, France, etc. The final plea that knowledge and understanding of Russia are essential for those who direct this country's policy is acceptable, subject to the reservation that Stalin is *not* Russia, and that, if British policy does not take this into account, it may have a rude awakening some day and realise it had been backing the wrong horse.

G. BENNIGSEN.

THE SCOT WHO WAS A FRENCHMAN. Being the Life of John Stewart, Duke of Albany, in Scotland, France and Italy. By Marie W. Stuart. (Hodge; 12s. 6d.)

The rôle of Regent is seldom either an easy or an enviable one. This is especially true when the country to be ruled is recovering from a major military disaster, in which the King and the flower of his nobility have been killed. It was to Scotland stricken by the tragedy of Flodden, when 'The Flowers of the Forest were a' wede away,' that John Stewart, Duke of Albany, was called to act as Regent for his cousin, the infant James V. Scotland was in too disturbed a state to be ruled by the Queen-Mother, the capricious and amorous sister of the victor of Flodden: the kingdom needed the firm rule of a man.

John Stewart, Duke of Albany, who had never been in Scotland, for his father, Alexander, had long been exiled after his treasonable conduct towards his brother, James III, was yet next in succession to the throne of Scotland after the posthumously-born Duke of Ross. It was natural that the Scottish Council should ask him to come and rule Scotland as Regent. 'Albany, however, was reluctant to leave France, which he loved, and to face that unknown land which had always proved so perilous to his family.' Jehan, as he preferred to be called, was entirely French in speech and manners, so that it is not surprising that he was unwilling to exchange the cultivated life at the court of François I for the uncertainties of a poor and faction-ridden kingdom. At last the persistent appeals of the Scottish Council broke down his resistance, and Jehan left France to become 'Lord Governor of Scotland.' There was great rejoicing at his coming and, after a magnificent ceremony of installation as Regent, Albany began firmly that work

for which he had come—a work which was arduous and for which he received little thanks.

Miss Stuart describes the difficulties of his Regency with much skill, conveying a vivid picture of the troubled state of the kingdom and of the nobles who contributed to the disorder. We are presented with a vast tapestry, rich in detail, so varied, indeed, that there are times when one loses sight of the Regent. The portrait of Albany is slow in emerging and not until the end of the book does he clearly appear before us as his biographer would have us see him. Albany has suffered from historians in the past, but in Miss Stuart he has a scholarly and spirited apologist.

Miss Stuart has a deep insight into the troubled period about which she writes, and she has a keen eye for interesting historical detail. Several full-length portraits emerge from this detail, notably that of the fickle Margaret Tudor, who so harassed the life of the Regent, and there are many enchanting vignettes.

The spectacular background of the Duke's life, particularly in France and Italy, fascinates Miss Stuart, and we are given colourful accounts of the court life of François I, of his wars and intrigues; of knightly tournaments, of the magnificent pageantry of royal weddings; of Papal Rome and its diplomatic intrigues, though Clement VII is delineated with somewhat unflattering sharpness. The ramifications of the marriage negotiations for Catherine de Medici make interesting reading, with its speculations as to what might have happened if she had married James V of Scotland instead of Henry II of France.

Miss Stuart has produced a scholarly and readable history and has done a fine work in her defence of the 'strangely neglected' Jehan, Duke of Albany. Her name is a notable addition to the growing number of contemporary writers of Scottish history, who recreate that history with much of the dynamic force that inspired it.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

FROM CABIN-BOY TO ARCHBISHOP. The Autobiography of Archbishop Ullathorne. With an Introduction by Shane Leslie. (Burns, Oates; 15s.)

Within the four years 1880-92 there died three great Catholic figures of Victorian England: Ullathorne, Newman, Manning. Ullathorne is certainly the least famous of the three, but his name is not unworthy to be mentioned along with the names of the two cardinals. There is little need, therefore, to emphasise the interest and importance of this book, with its story