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\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Parliament, with its roots deep mighty past, with its ceremonies ages, and customs—quaint, oldand impressive—has afforded a fheme for writers of all sorts and ditions, grave and gay, learned trifling. Erudite historians have us voluminous treatises on that me public law, written and unwivaguely known as the Constit great lawyers have compiled legal books aplenty; and from the days the time-serving and gossiping jotted down in his incomparable the strange doings of the great Es of the Realm, until the present writers less learned than the Great stitutionalists but more entertainin far as the general reader is conce have related stories and anecdot that ancient legislative body which been aptly termed the "Mother of liaments." Yet in spite of all that been written, few of us, comparat speaking, can boast of much know of the inner life of St. Stephen's, therefore we may perhaps be exofor calling the attention of our re to Mr. Michael MacDonagh's r work entitled "Parliament: Its mance; Its Comedy; Its Pathos."

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work entitled "Parliament: Its mance; Its Comedy; Its Pathos."

Mr. MacDonagh, whose ten years perience as a reporter in the Houcommons, supplemented by wide ing, well fits him for the task, give a picture, or rather a series of picture, or rather a series of the work of people's representa at the Palace of Westminster, and learn something of their trials and ulations, their joys and triumphs, does not attempt deep disquisitions the prerogatives of the Crown, nor he endeavor to explain the constituting all its manifold phases, for his is designed for amusement as well instruction, yet we are given a pop description of the practical working our parliamentary institutions that some particulars, perhaps, has not he excelled. We do not mean for one ment to compare this book with masterpieces of the great constituting writers—Stubbs, Anson, May, Bage Dicey and those others whose we are recognized as authorities on the ject. Far from it. We only wish infer that of the books written in lighter vein this is one which the geral reader will find as instructive a is entertaining. It will help to waway a leisure hour, and it will aid serious students of constitution fistory and parliamentary practice is procedure. Hitherto there has been complete picture of the two Houses gaged in the work of law-making, s complete picture of the two Houses gaged in the work of law-making, evidently the object of the book been to provide a view of the hur rather than the historical side of liament.

Not the least interesting feature the work are the anecdotes of great p liamentarians which the author ap uses to illustrate his points. We led away from the beaten track do unfrequented and little-trodden by-ws of the parliamentary maze, and, as c be imagined, the reader in nowise los by this arrangement. Mr. MacDonag English is vigorous and well-chosen, the is a journalist rather than a litt ateur.

THE KING'S PREROGATIVE. three constituent parts of which the Sovereign, the Lords and the C mons. According to the theory of mons. According to the theory of Constitution, Parliament is the Kin Great Council summoned to deliber with him on the affairs of the nat to advise him as to the conditions, wants and the wishes of his and a Bill does not become a Parliament or in other Parliament, or in other words, t of the land, even though it has through the House of Commons a House of Lords through the House of Commons and the House of Lords, until it has receive the Royal Assent. The first clause "the enacting clause" as it is termed of every Act of Parliament runs: "It enacted by the King's most excelle Majesty, by and with the cousent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and the Commons, in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows." But beyond this legislative por er which the King possesses as a see arate and independent part of the Leislature, his Majesty, by right of the Prerogative of the Crown, is the spreme executive authority of the stain all matters civil and military.

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preme executive authority of the stat in all matters civil and military.

The exclusive rights, privileges, an powers which the Prerogative conferupon the King are many and far-reaching. Mr. Pickwick, it will be remembered, was arrested at Ipswich for contemplating a breach of the beace by fighting a duel. "I believe duelling if one of his Majesty's most undoubted prerogatives, Mr. Jinks," said the Mayor of the town to his clerk, when the case came before his Worship-"Expressly stipulated in the Magna Charta, sir," replied Mr. Jinks. "One of the brightest jewels in the British Crown wrung from his Majesty by the barons, I believe, Mr. Jinks?" said the Mayor. "Just so, sir," assented Mr. Jinks. "Very well," continued the Mayor, "Just so, sir," assented Mr. Jinks. "Very well," continued the Mayor, drawing himself up proudly. "It shall not be violated in this portion of his Majesty's dominions." Now, though the privileges conferred by the Royal Prerogative do not include the exclusive right of fighting duels, they are, nevertheless, varied and peculiar. Indeed, it would seem that the King as the executive authority is omnipotent. But the law of the constitution restricts the powers and rights of the sovereign and confines them to their proper channels, so that no form of government exists, be it republican or communistic, that better preserves the equal rights of all "Her Majesty cannot be supposed to have a private opinion apart from that of her responsible advisers," so we are gravely told by Sir Erskine, the erudite Clerk of the House of Commons, referring to Queen Victoria, in his standard work on "Parliamentary Practice." The sentence is curiously phrased; but what, of course, it means is that the sovereign must not be influenced by his personal predilections in his attitude towards public affairs, at least to the execut of opposing or refusing to act upon the advice of his Ministers. In like manner, it is a breach of order in both Houses of Parliament to mention the name of the sovereign with a view to affec

name of the sovereign with a view to affect the course of legislation.

The Crown has in theory been shorn of none of its ancient rights and privileges. All the executive powers involved in the Prerogative are still vested in the sovereign alone, and can still be exercised only by the sovereign. But under the unwritten laws and customs of the Constitution, which have gradually grown up since the Revolution of 1688, silently, as it were, and almost imperceptibly, the executive powers that are necessary to the smooth working of the Constitution are now put into operation on the advice and through the instrumentality of the ministers. The old constitutional maxim, "The King can do no wrong," which has come down to us from far off days when the "Divine Right of Kings" was an article of religious belief, therefore obtains in the twentieth century, not in the sense that the King is personally invaluable, or humanly incapable of doing wrong, but in the sense that if any evil or injustice is wrought by the executive acts of Government which are done in the Sovereign's name, it is not the Sovereign's name, it

Thus have the old theories of the Constitution been brought in practice into harmany with modern ideas. The King can do no wrong as part of the Legislature, or as the Supreme executive authority, because everything he may do