

## REVIEWS.

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ENGLISH CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY. A TEXT BOOK FOR STUDENTS AND OTHERS. By Thomas P. Taswell-Langmead, B.C.L., late Vinerian Scholar in the University of Oxford, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-law. London: Stevens & Haynes, Law Publishers, Bell Yard, Temple Bar. 1875. (Pp. 736).

It is the pride of an Englishman to study the history of the British constitution. In no part of the world has parliamentary government achieved such success as in Britain; in no part of the world does it work so smoothly and so satisfactorily as in the parent country.

Other countries have attempted and are attempting to imitate the British constitution as a model. Some have succeeded better than others. But all people are not equally capable of enjoying rational liberty and self-government. Hence in some countries the attempt to imitate has been a mockery and a delusion, and in others a simple failure.

The colonies have proved themselves equal to the task of introducing and advantageously working the parliamentary system of Britain. And Canada may especially claim the honour, through one of her sons (Mr. Alpheus Todd, librarian of the House of Commons of Canada), of having produced the most complete and most accurate work that has been yet published on the parliamentary government of the parent country. He has with a master hand traced it from its origin, shown its steady development, and expounded its practical working in a manner so thorough and so effectual as to distance all competitors. What Hallam and Sir Erskine May have done for England and the colonies, Alpheus Todd has done for Canada and the empire, and done most intelligently, laboriously and accurately.

Mr. Taswell-Langmead now appears as a new candidate for public favour. His work, unlike that of Sir Erskine May, is chronological. He certainly begins at the beginning, and steadily traces the growth of the British constitution in a careful and trustworthy manner. He begins with the Teutonic conquest;

leads us to the Norman conquest; through the Norman conquest; describes the reigns of the Norman and first Anglian kings; Magna Charta; the administrative system under the Norman and Plantagenet kings; the succession to the crown, the origin of parliament; the growth of parliament; parliament under Lancasterian and Yorkist kings; the Tudor period; the Reformation; the reign of Elizabeth; the Stuart period; the Revolution, and the progress of the constitution since the Revolution, down to Lord Campbell's Libel Act of 1843.

The work is designed for students, but may fairly command the patronage of the general reader. It is clearly written, and abounds with foot notes as vouchers for assertions of fact.

The constitutional history of Sir Erskine May has been the chief guide of the author; but besides, he has largely availed himself of the writings of others.

The work is followed by a good index, which at once places at ready disposal any of its treasure that may be sought in an emergency. It will undoubtedly prove an acquisition not only to every student of English history, but to the library of every educated gentleman in the empire, including the many colonies that add so much to the greatness, the glory and splendour of the British Empire.

THE LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC WORSHIP, WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO MATTERS OF RITUAL AND ORNAMENTATION, AND TO THE MEANS FOR SECURING THE DUE OBSERVANCE THEREOF, AND CONTAINING THE PUBLIC WORSHIP REGULATION ACT, 1874, &c. WITH NOTES AND REFERENCES, by Seward Brice, LL.D., of the Inner Temple, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. London: Stevens & Haynes, Law Publishers, Bell Yard, Temple Bar. 1875. (Pp. 620).

If "Ritualism" has not done any other good, we think that we may thank it for the forthcoming of the exhaustive and able work now before us.

By "Ritualism" we mean the struggle in the Church of England for ceremonial,