NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE.

HISTORY OF THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE. From Arcadius to Irene (395 A. D. to 800 A. D.). By J. B. Bury, M. A. Two volumes. 8vo, pp. xxxiv-482, xxiv-579. Macmillan & Co.

The author of these two large volumes tells the reader that he was moved to undertake what certainly must have been a laborious task by the conviction that earlier historians had erred in slurring over a period of great significance; and in consequence of their contemptuous treatment the so-called Byzantine Empire had acquired an evil repute which it really did not deserve. To the title "Byzantine Empire" Mr. Bury objects, also, as misleading and incorrect. For, he observes, the first step toward grasping the history of those centuries through which the ancient evolved into the modern world is the comprehension of the fact that the old Roman Empire did not cease to exist until the year 1453. The line of Roman Emperors continued in unbroken succession from Octavius Augustus to Constantine Paleologus. Now this essential fact is obscured as far as language is able to obscure it by applying the name "Byzantine" or the name "Greek" to the Empire in its later stages. He finds fault too with the use of the expression "Eastern" and "Western" Roman Empire, and lastly he maintains that the period known heretofore most familiarly as that of the Byzantine Empire was really by no means so black as it has been painted. How dark the colors employed have been he illustrates by a citation from Mr. Lecky, who says: "Of that Byzantine Empire the universal verdict of history is that it constitutes, with scarcely an exception, the most thoroughly base and despicable form that civilization has yet assumed." That this is the "universal verdict of history" Mr. Bury denies, though it must be said that when we come to follow his narrative we do not encounter the sharp and frequent reversals of historic judgments to be anticipated from his position.

Nor, indeed, does it appear to be quite satisfactorily shown that the present work was urgently demanded. Possibly Mr. Bury may not be the ideal historian. Certainly the general impression made by this detailed chronicle of battles, murders, pestilences and sudden deaths is less interesting and engrossing than the alleged importance of the record would seem to require. The old opinion arrived at by Gibbon and adopted with few exceptions by his successors—namely, that the period in question was one of flux and decomposition, of which the most salient characteristics were decay and deterioration alike in social and moral systems, in material and spiritual activities—does not appear to be much shaken by these volumes, in fact. What they do is to emphasize the extent and complexity of the disorganizing influences which conducted the Empire toward destruction, and to weaken, by mere multiplicity of details, the effect of the critical events which mark the various stages of the long descent. As we shall see presently, moreover, Mr. Bury has ideas of his own concerning certain historical events, which are of a kind to surprise modern scientific historians, and which would have perhaps provoked the sardonic smile of Gibbon. Being bent upon rehabilitating the long-discredited Byzantine Empire—which Mr. Bury forbids us to call by that name henceforth—he naturally centres his exertions upon the imperial lady, whose character and career have of late years been rediscussed for quite other than the ordinary reasons of scholarship—the Empress Theodora. But here again the reader is destined to disappointment if he looks for a complete whitewashing; for Mr. Bury is so very judicial and cautious that, after carefully reading all he has to say, one hardly knows what to believe.

If you accept the "Secret History" attributed to Procopius, then, of course, you must regard Theodora as a second Messalina. But Mr. Bury is not prepared to accept the "Secret History," and, but for the fact that he is equally unprepared to reject it boldly, there would be some hope of reaching definite conclusions. Gibbon's view he cannot away with, for Gibbon held that if the "Secret History" was not literally true, it was substantially accurate. Theodora has had her modern champions, who solve the problem by repudiating the "Secret History" altogether. But this, says Mr. Bury, with his perplexing conscientiousness, is no more justifiable than the other course. According to him, if we understand the drift of his somewhat obscure reasoning, you must not accept the "Secret History" as a veracious chronicle; nor must you reject it absolutely as a tissue of campaign lies; nor is it possible to treat it as half true and half false. In short, what to do with it, only Mr. Bury knows, and he has, somehow, failed to impart the secret of his method. Still, he tries hard to build up an intelligible picture of Theodora as she really was, with curious results. For, when his sketch is analyzed, we find before us a woman of strong religious feeling, who, however, is not too pious to indulge in murder now and then; a lady of imperial dignity, who yet falls under the conventional condemnation of being "no better than she should be"; a liberal and generous ruler, who, notwithstanding, was accused by her contemporaries of miserliness and wanton cruelty; altogether a particularly paradoxical and unthinkable sort of personage. Most readers will probably prefer to stick to whatever preconceptions of Justinian's spouse they may have formed, and this course is the more justifiable inasmuch as the actual truth of the matter is to-day as far beyond the possibility of ascertainment as the song the Syrens sung, or the name under which Achilles passed when he lived among the women.

As to Justinian himself, Mr. Bury observes: "Gibbon's remark that Justinian was 'never young' aptly conveys the sort of impression he gives us. There is a cold atmosphere about him—the atmosphere of inexorable Roman logic, afraid of no consequences—which is tinged also with a certain mysticism. His mode of life was severely abstemious and ascetic, his days and nights laborious. He was a man of wide education, learned in philosophy, theology, jurisprudence, music and architecture, and a friend of his said that the time despaired of by Plato had come, when a philosopher should reign and a king philosophize." Mr. Bury argues that the austere character of Justinian is itself strong evidence of the calumnious nature of the reports about Theodora, but he could hardly have reasoned thus had he recalled to mind the cases of the two Faustinas. Antoninus Pino and Marcus Aurelius were certainly not less impeccable husbands than Justinian, but no doubt can exist as to the profligacy of their wives. On the whole, therefore, this attempt to rehabilitate Theodora cannot be regarded as very successful. It is, however, in dealing with the great plague which swept over the later Roman Empire, from 542 to 546 A. D., that the author develops the most singular ideas. He advances the suggestion, as at least a possibility, that this pestilence was the effect of the great moral change then passing over the people of the Empire. We will let him speak for himself: "The peculiarity of great plagues—that they are concomitants of moral or physical changes—naturally suggests a problem, the data necessary for whose solution are veiled in obscurity. Are these pestilences to be placed in the same category as earthquakes, for example, which may destroy a city and thereby modify history, although there is no conceivable intrinsic connection between their own causes and the societies which they affect? In this case two alternatives are possible. Either the moral and spiritual change is in the first instance quite independent of the plague, and the synchronism is a pure accident, though when the plague has set in it may facilitate the changes by removing the old generation and transforming the population, or else the plague is the cause of the moral and spiritual revolution. The second alternative must be rejected, because in all cases we see the change at work before the appearance of the disease; and perhaps the first theory will recommend itself as reasonable."

Here the whole argument seems to rest upon a "petitio principii"—the assumption, namely, that all great plagues are "concomitants of moral or physical changes. Such changes, no doubt, follow plagues, as they do and must follow any and all far-reaching catastrophes and convulsions, and as they follow long and devastating wars, for example. But the whole question is in the air, and such a view as Mr. Bury suggests cannot but weaken confidence in his historic judgments. He has shown great industry in these volumes, but they are, for the most part, heavy reading, and the importance of the period treated does not justify the elaboration of his methods. The volumes, it may be said, are beautifully printed.

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WHITE STAR LINE. FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL. ROYAL AND UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS. *Teutonic, May 28, 12:30 p. m. *Teutonic...June 25, 11 a. m. Britannic...June 4, 6:30 a. m. Britannic...July 2, 4 p. m. *Majestic.....June 11, 1 p. m. Majestic...July 9, 11:30 a. m. Germanic...June 18, 6:30 a. m. Germanic...July 16, 4 p. m. From White Star Dock, foot of West 10th-st. *Second cabin on these steamers. Saloon rates, $60 and upward, according to steamer and location of berth. Second cabin, $40 and $45. Excursion tickets on favorable terms; steerage, $20. Company's Office, No. 41 Broadway, New-York. Philadelphia office, 406 Walnut-st. J. BRUCE ISMAY, Agent.

Ocean Steamers.

STATE LINE—BETWEEN NEW-YORK, GLASGOW AND MOVILLE (LONDONDERRY), WITH THROUGH TICKETS AT REDUCED RATES TO LIVERPOOL, LONDON, DUBLIN, &c. STATE OF INDIANA.....Thursday, May 29, 10 a. m. STATE OF NEVADA.....Thursday, June 5, 9:30 a. m. Cabin passage, $35 to $55, according to location of stateroom. Excursion tickets, $65 to $95. Steerage tickets to and from all parts of Europe at lowest rates. From pier Columbia Stores, South Ferry, Brooklyn, N. Y. For freight and passage apply to AUSTIN BALDWIN & CO., General Agents, 53 Broadway, N. Y. Steerage office, 21 Broadway.

RED STAR LINE. FOR ANTWERP AND PARIS. Sailing for New-York and Antwerp weekly. FRIESLAND.....Wednesday, May 28, 12:30 p. m. NOORDLAND.....Wednesday, June 4, 6 a. m. Cabin Rates: First Cabin, $55 and upward. Second cabin, $40 and $45. Excursion tickets at reduced rates. Steerage at very low rates. PETER WRIGHT & SONS, Gen'l Agts., 6 Bowling Green.

Auction Sales.

TRUSTEES' SALE.

Whereas the St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Power Company (a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Missouri), by its deed of trust, dated February 1st, 1883, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for the City of St. Louis, Missouri, in Book 693, page 305, conveyed to the undersigned, The Fidelity Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company, as trustee, the following described property; that is to say:

FIRST—All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the City of St. Louis, Missouri, and located in Block Eight (8) of Central Addition to said city, and in City Block sixteen hundred and seventy (1,670), and described as follows; that is to say: Beginning at the northwest corner of Clark avenue and Eighteenth street, and running thence west, along the north line of Clark avenue, one hundred (100) feet; thence north, and parallel with Eighteenth street, ninety (90) feet, more or less, to an alley; thence east, along said alley, one hundred (100) feet to said Eighteenth street; thence south, along Eighteenth street, ninety (90) feet, more or less, to the place of beginning, and bounded north by an alley, east by Eighteenth street, south by Clark avenue, and west by the leasehold premises next below described. Located on said premises, above described, are the following buildings, viz.: One brick fireproof building, 45x34 feet, one story high, with basement, having a corrugated iron roof and iron floor, fitted for and used as a gas generating house, and containing 1 Lowe Improved Generator and Super-Heater, combined, 7 feet in diameter, capacity 400,000 cubic feet per day; 2 Generators, of 5 feet diameter, and 2 Super-Heaters, of 4 feet diameter, connected together, and having a capacity of about 150,000 cubic feet, each, per day; 3 Washers, 1 Scrubber and 1 Condenser. 1 Tank, capacity 60 gallons. Also one boiler and engine house, 36x33 feet, and one story high, built of brick, with gravel roof, and containing one twenty-horse power Phœnix horizontal engine; one 40-horse power upright engine; 2 double riveted tubular boilers, 52x16 feet, with all connections complete; 1 No. 8 Sturdevant Blower, 1 No. 7 Sturdevant Blower; one 4-foot Worthington Hydraulic Pump, 2 No. 3 Hooker Pumps, 1 Heater, 24x17. 1 Steam Drum, 2'x6'x7'. Also one 2-story brick office building, 50x20 feet, and containing one Connally Automatic Governor (16') with all connections complete, office desk, table, chairs, heating stove and heating coil. Also one one-story store house, of wood, 25x14 feet. Also one Coal Shed, of wood, 40x14 feet. Also one Gas Holder, single section, 50 feet diameter, capacity 40,000 cubic feet.

SECOND—A certain leasehold estate in that certain lot or parcel of land situated in said City of St. Louis and located in Block eight (8) of Central Addition to said City of St. Louis and in City Block sixteen hundred and seventy (1,670), and described as follows, that is to say: Lots numbered eight (8) and seven (7) and the western eight (8) feet of lot numbered six (6), of Block number eight (8) of Central Addition to the City of St. Louis, according to a plat thereof duly recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, in and for the City of St. Louis, and having an aggregate front of seventy-two (72) feet and two (2) inches on the north line of Clark avenue, by a depth northwardly, and parallel with Eighteenth street, of ninety-five (95) feet to an alley ten (10) feet wide; and bounded, north by said alley, east by property of the St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Power Company, south by the St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Furnishing Company, south by Clark avenue, and west by an alley. Located on said leasehold premises is one storage (naphtha) tank, having a capacity of 10,215 gallons. Said leasehold estate was created by a certain Indenture of Lease bearing date the first day of July, 1882, and executed, by and between the St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Furnishing Company, as lessor, and the St. Louis Heat and Power Furnishing Company (now the St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Power Company), as lessee, for a term of ten years commencing on the first day of July, 1882, and ending on the first day of July, 1892, at an annual rental of twenty-five hundred and thirty-three dollars, payable semi-annually, on the first day of January and July in each year, the last payment being due on the first day of July, 1892, and the said lessee also covenanting for itself and for all parties claiming under it to pay all taxes and assessments, and other charges of every description, whether general tax or special tax, legally required or demanded in respect of said premises during the continuance of said lease. Said lease contains a clause permitting the lessee, its successors or assigns, at any time during said term, at the expiration of said lease, all improvements which said lessee, or any one claiming under it or them, may have erected on said leased premises during said term, and which said lessee shall have a first option, giving the said lessee, its successors or assigns, the privilege of purchasing the premises embraced in said lease, at the end of said term, at the price of forty thousand dollars, or of purchasing the same at any time during said term, at the price of thirty-three thousand dollars, and in addition thereto, the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars for each year, and a proportionate part of said last named sum for each additional part of a year, from the beginning of said term down to the date of such purchase. The said lease is recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for the City of St. Louis, in Book 696, at page 44.

FOURTH—Also about 20 miles and 4,222 feet of gas street mains of the following dimensions, viz.: About 9,229 feet wide of 16-inch; 21,914 of 8-inch; 12,137 of 6; 6,147 of 4-inch, and 2,000 of 3-inch. Said mains are laid in portions of and City of St. Louis bounded by the east line of Second street, north line of Wright street, west line of Vandeventer avenue and south line of Washington avenue, including Eighteenth street and Fifteenth street, north and south, from Washington avenue to Lucas avenue, Fourth street from Washington avenue to Market street, and Broadway from Washington avenue to Olive street, and Sixth street from Washington avenue to St. Charles street, and Jefferson street, Lucas and Eleventh streets, north and south, from the north line of Lucas avenue of Chestnut street. Also about 2,267 services, ranging in size from ¾ to 2", of which about 2,152 extend from the mains to the meters in the respective buildings, and the balance from the mains to the curb of the streets; also about 1,000 meters, of various sizes, and about 229 of various sizes, not set. Also 32 No. 3 and 22 No. 2 gas cook stoves, 2 gas heaters and 6 spinets and in use 79 No. 1 gas cooking stoves and 16 gas heating stoves, not in use, and 1 No. 1 and 12 No. 2 cooking stoves and 2 gas ranges, out of repair.

FIFTH—A lot of tools and implements, consisting of tongs, disc, soldering irons, pliers, hammers, taps, cankling irons, pumps and nozzles, vise, rubber bags, meter provers, ratchets, supports, stocks and dies, drill stocks, reamers, machine screws, set screws, corks, etc. Also a lot of office furniture, consisting of two safes, two stoves, counter, railing, screen, desks, office chairs, filter presses, case of drawers and pipes, now and located at 603 North Sixth street. Also 4 horses and 4 harness.

SIXTH—Also, all the right, title and interest of the said St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Power Company in, to and under a certain license (dated May 9, 1881, and recorded in Liber 2, No. 26, page 162, of Transfer of Patents), executed by the National Gas Company, a corporation, to the St. Louis Heat and Power Company, a corporation, for the Rowe Incandescent Gas Process and apparatus for the manufacture of illuminating or heating gas under letters patent of the United States numbered 197,847, and dated September 21, 1877. Also, all the right, title and interest of said St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Power Company in, to and under a certain license, dated April 2, 1883, executed by the National Gas Company to the Lowe Manufacturing Company (and assigned by the last-named company to the St. Louis Gas, Fuel and Power Company by deed of ass