

SOME NEW BOOKS.

Madame de Maintenon.

To demonstrate that Mme. de Maintenon has on the whole suffered unjustly in public opinion...

Madame de Maintenon (Charles Scribner's Sons). Mme. de Maintenon was a woman of a phenomenal intellect...

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aversion for the Jesuits. What she did, when impelled to more devotion, was to choose as her spiritual director the Abbé Gobella.

It was after she became more devout that the path to her future eminence was opened for her in a curious manner.

The Lent of 1675 brought an unexpected solution. Louis XIV. had confessions who shut their eyes to scandals which they were unable to prevent...

On October 7, 1680, Scarron died. He talked for forty years without having anything to say...

and must be listened to. They have roared; I have not. The air is stifling; the King doesn't allow a window to be opened.

September 1, 1715, Louis XIV. died. Mme. de Maintenon had made him farewell, distributed the contents of her rooms among her servants and withdrawn to Saint-Cyr two days before.

The life she organized for herself at Saint-Cyr was simple, even austere, and she declined to receive visitors.

The "Good" Old Times. In a study ironically entitled "The Good Old Times" (Brentano's) Frederick W. Hackwood turns to the sober narrative of historic poverty...

once paid for ecclesiastical purposes, salaries, church repairs and finally the poor, were now by law devoted to the sustenance of the last named, "parsons, rectors of the church and parishioners" being legally ordered to look to it that no man in the dominions lacked food...

Not a few fugitives from the cruelties of the poor laws took to the open. Every forest in England was infested with robber bands. The less adventurous, who huddled together in towns and cities, found their troubles increased by the prevalence of leprosy in a form more severe than the Asiatic disease...

By means of it the labor market was completely disorganized. The increasing luxury of the landlords made it necessary that their tenantry should be sold. Hence the custom of paying rent in manual labor was commuted in favor of money payment.

From this course followed fresh economic disasters. The territorial magnates, finding wool farming so profitable, were not content with their own vast holdings but fenced in the common lands. They thus converted to their private aggrandizement thousands of acres where once the stock of the peasantry had fed and nurtured.

specious pretence of reclaiming waste places or of building up national wealth by supplying national needs these public lands were appropriated to private uses.

In spite of the increase of the national wealth the claims of the poor were so insistent that the State was forced to appoint officials whose business was to solicit from well to do citizens aid for the destitute.

Further attempts at state control resulted in the establishment of the workhouse and pauper systems, which should not be confounded with almshouses. Those latter were foundations of private charity, to provide the pious poor with leisure to pray unceasingly for the souls of the deceased benefactor.

These methods, like serfdom theoretically good, were in actuality a cruel discipline alone drove the inmates to work that cheerless conditions made hateful to the worker.

Parliament to bring the laborers into subjection by enacting in 1662 the Law of Parochial Settlement. This empowered the overseers to remove newcomers who occupied a tenement of less than \$100 annual rental or could not give security that they would not come upon the parish for support.

With the rise of trade unions came the first amelioration in the condition of the laborers. The medieval law punished such combinations as conspiracy, proceeding with such rigor that the first tentative attempts at concerted action were short lived.

From the Westminster Gazette. A grandfather's clock which for many years has stood in the vestry at St. Paul's Cathedral recently broke down and was sent to a clockmaker to be repaired.

Water in Land of "The Virginian." Owen Foster, whose "Virginian" made this town famous, to-day was the guest of the town, stopping here for a few hours before starting for the Jackson Hole country on a hunt.

A Clockmaker's Discovery. A grandfather's clock which for many years has stood in the vestry at St. Paul's Cathedral recently broke down and was sent to a clockmaker to be repaired.

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