

*Calendar of the Patent Rolls, 1330-1334.* (Stationery Office.)—We welcome another volume of these admirable calendars, the contents of which do not call for any special notice, as they resemble those of the preceding one. The execution of the work, wherever we have tested it, seems quite admirable and a credit to the Public Record Office. To the topographer and the genealogist such volumes as this are simply invaluable, and we expect that they will be frequently consulted on the other side of the Atlantic. The rate of progress is well maintained, considering the many fresh undertakings of Mr. Maxwell Lyte and his able assistants.

THE WAR OF 1870.

AN extremely interesting, although very ill-compiled book is General Lebrun's account of his mission to Vienna in 1870, and of the Archduke Albert's visits to Paris for the preparation of the military convention between Austria and France for the invasion of Germany. It is published by Dentu under the title of *Souvenirs Militaires, 1866-1870*. The volume is swollen, or we ought, perhaps, to say padded, by a great quantity of worthless stuff about guns, missions to Belgium, and the details of the war of 1870-71. The only part of it which is of value—and it is of great historical interest—is the part which we have first named. In the important passages there is much repetition: most of the things come twice over, and some of them three times over. The following are the facts which the work brings out. The Emperor personally, after the first visit of the Archduke Albert to Paris in the early spring of 1870, gave directions to General Lebrun to go to Vienna to prepare a plan for the invasion of Germany by the whole armies of France and Austria, and 100,000 Italians promised by Victor Emmanuel. There is no evidence in the book that the Italians made definite promises, except General Lebrun's repetitions of the statements of Louis Napoleon and of the Archduke Albert. The latter assumed that Italy would place her whole forces, and not only 100,000 men, at the disposal of the allies. The reader will, of course, be mindful of the fact that publications in Italy have shown that Prussia had bought the neutrality of Italy before this date, so that if Victor Emmanuel really promised Louis Napoleon 100,000 men, he "promised both sides." It is probable that he was merely endeavouring to buy Rome. To return to the Austrians. The French Emperor's plan was that while the French menaced the Palatinate, three armies of 100,000 each, French, Austrian, and Italian, should march straight into the extreme south of Germany. The Italians were to occupy Munich permanently, and the southern states were to be detached from the northern alliance. General Lebrun was already known to have left Paris on May 28th, passing through Berlin to throw the Germans off the scent, which he did not succeed in doing. General Lebrun on reaching Vienna had repeated conferences with the Archduke. He told him that in fifteen days the French could cross the frontier with 400,000 men; and the Archduke assumed that the Prussians could not place in line so large a force, and that not in a month. The intelligence department of the Vienna Foreign Office was sadly misinformed. The French never reached 250,000 upon the frontier, and they were attacked by the Germans at a much earlier date than had been named for the full mobilization of the German forces, and attacked by enormously greater numbers than had been pronounced possible. It may be said, roughly speaking, that the German mobilization took half the time and produced double the forces which had been calculated by Austria, and that the French mobilization took double the time and produced half the forces expected. General Lebrun, after completing the whole of his arrangements with the Archduke, found that Austria absolutely

refused to declare war at the same date as France, and that her mobilization would take forty-two days. All she promised was to begin her mobilization on the day of the French declaration of war. After his conferences with the Archduke Albert, General Lebrun saw the Emperor of Austria, who made it quite clear that the war must be so brought about as, in the first place, to seem forced upon him; and, in the second place, brought about with a certainty of success. He had already risked two unsuccessful wars, and the third must be successful. It was a *sine qua non* with the Archduke Albert that the declaration of war should not be earlier than the spring of 1871, and that the allies should have the whole summer before them. The Austrian *generalissimo* considered a declaration of war late in the summer as fatal to all chance of success. It is pretty clear from this book that the Germans knew that they would be attacked in April, 1871, by the two powers, if not by three, and there are hints also that Denmark would have moved. The result was that Bismarck anticipated his enemies by the forcing of the Spanish candidature in such a way as to drive the French into immediate war. The Austrians, seeing the slowness and confusion of the French preparations, and finding that Italy was deserting, naturally did not commence that mobilization which had been promised.

MM. Armand Colin & Cie. publish *La Guerre et la Frontière du Rhin: La Solution*, by Jean Heimweh, a writer who has already written five similar works, some of which have been noticed by us. The friends of peace will welcome this little volume, which, however, is not destined to produce more effect on German feeling than have its predecessors. Strasburg is to be a free town, and Germany to contribute as well as France to keep up its university, with the hope that one day it may become the capital of the United States of Europe. The author's dreams of generosity on the part of the German Emperor will hardly be helped by this suggestion.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MR. CHARLES G. HARPER'S latest book, *The Portsmouth Road* (Chapman & Hall), is of considerable merit so far as the illustrations are concerned, and the text has at least the virtue of being readable. It is impossible, however, to term the volume a model of arrangement, and it contains too much quotation for quotation's sake, from Pepys, Gibbon's autobiography, Wilkes's letters to his daughter, and so forth. Mr. Harper has put old local newspapers to better purposes, and some of his stories of murders and highwaymen, if a trifle gruesome, do illustrate a bygone age. His disquisitions on the chief buildings of Guildford and other familiar spots do not embrace any conclusions that are startlingly novel, and we notice some minor errors, such as the confusion of Philippe Egalité with Louis Philippe on p. 101. And why should Sir John Vanbrugh be called an amateur dramatist? However, except for a rather irrational objection to bicyclists, the production may be dismissed with a verdict of general approval.

MESSRS. P. S. KING & SON publish a second volume of the *Transactions* of the Political Economy Circle of the National Liberal Club, edited by Mr. J. H. Levy, honorary secretary of the Circle. The daily newspapers have mentioned from time to time the most important of the papers read before this Circle, and the leading incidents of the discussions which have occurred upon them. They include the valuable paper of Mr. Foxwell on 'The Monetary Situation.'

*Profilis de Femmes* is a volume by M. Maurice Paléologue, published by Calmann Lévy, which contains five chapters, of which three are excellent. Dismissing those on the nun of Por-

tugal ('Lettres Portugaises') and on the loves of Heine, we may point out that the author shows himself a true historian in his life of Queen Louise of Prussia, and an admirable observer in his notes on the wives of great men in the essay on Madame de Chateaubriand. His remarks on Frau von Goethe, on Madame de Lamartine, and on two types, of which one suggests Madame Renan, and the other one of the most devoted and admirable of living women, are full of charm. The essay on Adrienne Le Couvreur, mistress of Peterborough, of Maurice of Saxony, and of Voltaire, is remarkable in proving that this actress of the Regency wrote the thoughts on love of a modern woman—or, indeed, of a French lady of our day.

M. CALMANN LÉVY publishes the first volume of a *Parliamentary History of the Finance of the Monarchy of July*, by the late M. Calmon, a friend and colleague of M. Thiers. It is too technical to find many readers outside of France.

We have received from "Patrick Geddes & Colleagues," of Edinburgh (London, Fisher Unwin), the first number of the *Evergreen*, so called after the well-known miscellany of Allan Ramsay. Messrs. Constable & Co. have done their best by providing luxurious type and paper, and the illustrations are of varying excellence. The calf-love of 'Robene and Makyn,' as set forth by Henryson, is dramatically illustrated. Another pathetic study is the 'Pipes of Arcady,' and the drawing of the Tron and St. Giles's gives the due touch of local colour. It is an excellent arrangement that the full-page illustrations are faced by fair spaces of blank paper, which rest the eye.—We have also on our table some numbers of a highly meritorious periodical, the *Educational Review*, published at Madras; and the first number of the *Revue pour les jeunes Filles* (Paris, Colin & Cie.), an excellent magazine, of which the title indicates the aim.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD & SONS deserve praise for having undertaken a new edition of Galt's novels, and begun it with two neat little volumes containing the *Annals of the Parish* and *The Ayrshire Legatees*, of which Messrs. Macmillan published a handsome reprint the other day; but why it should require one person to edit the reprint and another to write the introduction is hard to say. However, in the introduction Mr. Crockett says the obvious thing pleasantly enough; but we cannot agree with him about Sir Walter's Scotch. The memoir—which we presume is of Mr. Meldrum's writing—would have been better had it been written in simpler style.—Another instance of clashing reprints is furnished by the publication in Messrs. Macmillan's "Standard Novels" of *The Adventures of Haji Baba*, of which we lately noticed a very handsome reprint, published by Messrs. Methuen, and prefaced by Prof. E. G. Browne. The Hon. G. N. Curzon, who of course would not claim Mr. Browne's knowledge of Persian life, has contributed a readable introduction, and Mr. Millar's illustrations show much cleverness.—Messrs. Constable have continued their highly commendable reprint of the "Waverley Novels" by the issue of *Guy Mannering*. As Messrs. Black have written to us on the subject, we may say that the original plates are in the hands of that esteemed firm, those in the reprint before us being reproductions by some process or other. We may possibly not have made this clear in our notice of the preceding volumes.—Mrs. Cashel Hoey's successful novel *A Golden Sorrow* has been reprinted by Messrs. Low & Co.

We have on our table the *Reports* of the Free Libraries at Battersea, Chelsea, Norwich, Plymouth, Richmond (Surrey), and Wigan. At Battersea the finances are in a more satisfactory condition than last year. The issues from the reference libraries at Chelsea have diminished in number, while those from the lending libraries have increased. From Norwich come