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THE FORTHCOMING BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MODERN BRITISH HISTORY

By HENRY R. TEDDER, F.S.A., *Hon. Treasurer*

Read March 19, 1914

THE title of the paper as it appears in the sessional programme, 'Concerning Historical Bibliography,' is somewhat vague. What I have to say this afternoon chiefly concerns the forthcoming 'Bibliography of Modern British History,' which owes its inception to Fellows of the Royal Historical Society. It is not necessary for me to describe the extensive literature published in various countries and at various times on the subject of Historical Bibliography, as retrospects have been the theme of several papers read by me to the Library Association, some as far back as 1885, when I first submitted to that body 'Proposals for a Bibliography of National History,' since approved, amplified, and improved by Mr. Frederic Harrison and by Dr. G. W. Prothero in addresses before this Society.¹

The need of a Bibliography of British History has long been recognised. For Germany, France, Belgium, and the United States the well-known works of Dahlmann-Waitz, Langlois, Molinier, Monod, Pirenne, and Larned supply what is required. Fourteen years ago the late Professor Gross, of Harvard, produced his admirable book 'The Sources and Literature of English History from the Earliest Times to about 1485,' but for the last four centuries we have nothing sufficiently complete and methodical to be adequate to the requirements of modern historical study. It is believed that a bibliography of later British history will be

¹ 'Proposals for a New Historical Bibliography' (*Transactions*, 1897, pp. 19-30). 'Presidential Address,' February 1903, (*Transactions*, 1903, pp. vii-xxxiii.).

of value, not only to British students, but also, in an even greater degree, to those of America and Continental Europe.

Professor Charles Gross unfortunately died before he was able to see through the press a second edition of his book. In his preface he stated :

‘ Mr. Tedder and Mr. Harrison both demand, however, that the proposed bibliography, unlike those of Dahlmann-Waitz and Monod, should give some account of the contents and a brief estimate of the value of the books named ; and they agree in asserting that the labour of preparing such a treatise can be successfully undertaken only by some method of co-operation on the part of various experts.’

He added :

‘ But a co-operative scheme of this sort is difficult to initiate and carry out ; and as no such scheme has as yet been undertaken, I have ventured to put forth a bibliography of that part of the subject which extends from the earliest times to 1485.’

Professor Gross deserves the sincere gratitude of students for the enterprise and self-denying labour with which he commenced his laborious task, and the skill and energy with which he carried it out. His book is too well known to require any special description. It contains a systematic survey of the printed materials relating to the political, constitutional, legal, social, and economic history of England, Wales, and Ireland. The manuscript materials are dealt with only incidentally ; Scotland was omitted except in so far as she affected English history. All honour to Dr. Gross for the work which he carried out, but the part he completed is really the least difficult of achievement by individual effort. It is when we approach the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that choice and selection increase in difficulty, and it is in these later periods when choice and selection become more and more urgent. The continuation will be on a more comprehensive plan than that of Dr. Gross, and it is proposed to deal with unprinted materials more completely than was contemplated by him.

Besides Dr. Charles Gross's work, to which the enterprise I am about to describe is supplementary, one or two recent representative undertakings may be noted. There is, for instance, the 'Guide to the MS. Materials for the History of the United States to 1783,' published by the Carnegie Institution at Washington in 1908, and the new edition of Dahlmann-Waitz.

The former work was compiled by Professor C. M. Andrews, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Miss F. G. Davenport, for the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and was published in 1908. It includes the British Museum, the minor London archives, and the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. It does not include the Public Record Office. It is supplementary to previous volumes on MS. materials in Cuban and Spanish archives. Paris, Mexico, and Rome are yet to be dealt with. There will be references to the contents of these works in the projected publication I am describing.

The recently published eighth edition of Dahlmann-Waitz's 'Quellenkunde der Deutschen Geschichte' (1912) is a monumental work. The title-page contains the names of no less than forty-two persons who helped the editor, Paul Herre, in this prodigious undertaking. The main titles run up to 13,380—an increase of 3000 upon the entries in the seventh edition (1906). References to unprinted manuscript sources are not included, nor are there notes; but in the latest edition these are represented by references to other sources of information in the alphabetical index, which extends in three columns from page 980 to page 1290. The work is in two divisions—one of subjects and one in historical order. The date extends from the earliest times to 1911, and it is a select bibliography.

In addition to these bibliographies 'The Dictionary of National Biography' is a rich storehouse of historical information and must not be forgotten, but it is in alphabetical order of persons, and for this reason possesses but remote interest for our purpose. I have suggested to the

publishers the desirability of a chronological index, classified under names and under subjects, which would form a useful historical clue to a work of reference of which every Englishman has reason to be proud. The useful classified lists of authorities appended to the volumes of the 'Cambridge Modern History,' and the annotated lists of books recommended by the Historical Association, show how widespread is the demand for guides to historical reading.

There are two books to which I should like to refer with special commendation, although they belong to mediæval history and do not concern the period in which we are interested. One is 'English Historical Literature in the Fifteenth Century,' by C. L. Kingsford : with an appendix of chronicles and pieces hitherto for the most part unprinted' (Oxford, 1913, 8vo). The other, 'A Select Bibliography for the Study, Sources, and Literature of English Mediæval Economic History, compiled by a Seminar of the London School of Economics, under the supervision of Hubert Hall' (London, 1914, 8vo). This is minutely classified, with a good index ; introductions to each division take the place of notes.

In 1909 the American Historical Association appointed a Committee to consider the question of continuing Gross's Bibliography in collaboration with the Royal Historical Society. The American Committee consists of Prof. E. P. Cheyney (Pennsylvania), Chairman ; Prof. A. L. Cross (Michigan) ; Prof. R. B. Merriman (Harvard) ; Prof. E. C. Richardson (Princeton) ; and Prof. Williston Walker (Yale). The Council of the Royal Historical Society appointed Prof. Firth, Mr. Hubert Hall, Dr. G. W. Prothero, Mr. H. R. Tedder, and Dr. (now Sir) A. W. Ward. After long negotiations, satisfactory arrangements have been concluded between the two Committees, and the 'Bibliography of Modern British History' will comprise a select and classified list of works in English as well as in foreign languages. It is designed as a guide to the principal MS. authorities as well as printed books, pamphlets, dissertations, articles in

periodicals (English and foreign), and articles of original value in dictionaries, encyclopædias, transactions of societies, and collective works. It is a national Bibliography, comprising England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, and the Colonies and Dependencies of Great Britain, past and present. We shall include the American Colonies down to 1776, India since the Charter of Queen Elizabeth to the East India Company in 1600, Canada since 1763, South Africa since 1795, Australia and the Crown Colonies since the beginning of the British occupation.

The titles of entries will be taken directly from the works themselves, reasonably abbreviated where necessary, when the scope and contents are clearly indicated in the titles; this information will be supplemented by an occasional bibliographical note. Short explanatory and critical notes will be added where desirable. Mr. Frederic Harrison rightly asserts that 'just as a real history is not a series of annals, so a real bibliography is not a mere catalogue of titles.' The notes will be brief and restricted to matters not of ordinary knowledge; commonplaces on well-known books and authors would be out of place. The work will extend ultimately from 1485 (where Professor Gross's work ends) to 1910 (end of the reign of Edward VII).

There will be six parts, grouped into three volumes, as follows:—

VOL. I.—GENERAL

Part I.—An introduction explaining the scope and arrangement of the work; with preliminary and general matters, such as brief accounts of important libraries, collections of archives and documents (MS. and printed), publications of learned societies, collections and series of printed works, prints, facsimiles, etc.; indications of bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopædias, and periodicals of an historical nature; historical atlases; works on historical geography, topography, chronology, epigraphy, and auxiliary subjects, such as heraldry and numismatics.

Part II.—A select list of authorities for the whole period (1485 to 1910), or the greater part of it, arranged in sections, as mentioned hereafter.

VOL. II.—THE TUDOR AND STEWART PERIODS

Part III.—A list of authorities for the Tudor period (1485 to 1603), arranged in sections.

Part IV.—Similar lists for the Stewart period (1603 to 1714).

VOL. III.—HANOVERIAN PERIODS

Parts V and VI.—Similar lists for the first Hanoverian Period (1714 to 1815), and the second Hanoverian Period (1815 to 1910).

The entries will be classified as far as possible in the following sections :

(1) General history, including general newspapers and periodicals of the period ; works primarily belonging to, and therefore classified under other heads, but bearing also on general history, to be indicated under this head by cross-references.

(2) Legal and constitutional history ; justice and police ; political philosophy.

(3) Religious and ecclesiastical history.

(4) Literature ; art and science ; education.

(5) Naval and military history.

(6) Biography ; genealogy ; and family history.

(7) Local history ; counties, towns, etc.

(8) Trade, industry, and commerce ; economic theory ; social history ; manners and customs.

(9) Voyages and travels ; foundation of colonies and dependencies.

In each section entries will be arranged in two groups : (a) sources : (1) manuscript, (2) printed ; (b) later works.

Precise instructions for cataloguing printed books have been drawn up, and a card arranged for full particulars to be supplied in a uniform manner. As the description

of MS. authorities will form a special feature, some details may be given. At the head of each section of each part mention will be made of (a) single works or records in MS. of first-rate importance (if any) which are still unprinted or only partly printed. When the MS. original of any particular printed source or of a portion of such source (*e.g.*, letters or illustrative documents) is known to exist, it will be mentioned in a note under the description of that source or the locality where it is preserved; *e.g.*, under 'Life of Col. Hutchinson' reference should be made to B.M. Add. MSS. 25901; or under Warburton's 'Prince Rupert' to B.M. Add. MSS. 18980-2, as the source of the transcription. This is of special importance in cases where the transcript is incorrect, as in Cardwell's 'Documentary Annals.' After this will follow (b) private collections of MSS. bearing wholly or in part on the section, *e.g.*, the Harleian or the Hatfield MSS., whether these remain unprinted, or have been calendared, or wholly or partly printed; information will be given as to which of these processes (if any) has taken place, and in what form. Where such MSS. or collections of MSS. have already been described, reference will be made to such description. A third section (c) will describe such portions of public collections of State Papers and other official documents, whether in Great Britain or abroad, as bear especially on the section. The great collections of MSS., State Papers, etc., will be more or less fully described in Part I (preliminary matter); in the case of a sub-section devoted to some particular matter, *e.g.*, the Armada, Mary Stewart, or the Long Parliament, information about MSS. bearing on such matter will be placed at the head of the sub-section, not of the section.

In connexion with the subject of the 'Original Sources,' there are two recent incidents to which I should like to draw attention. Lord Haldane, in a recent brilliant lecture 'On the Meaning of Truth in History,' appears to restrict the title of Records to State Papers, of which he speaks with scant respect.

‘ Let us look at the case of records,’ he says. ‘ Goethe was no doubt right in his scepticism about mere records. For if a man indulges himself with the belief that in quoting records accurately he is collecting the truth about the history of a period he is indulging himself rashly. What do such records consist of? Biographies written at the time, letters, and State Papers are their main forms.’¹

And he continues :—

‘ Ambassadors’ letters and the letters written to them are documents in which the impressions of the moment are recorded, impressions which are often very evanescent.’²

Now it is strange that Lord Haldane does not mention the Records proper, legal and administrative, with which he has himself had to deal. These are minutes of business actually transacted ; they tell the secret history of public affairs, and form the safest and only impartial basis for the deductions and comments of historians. It is not necessary for me in this place to draw attention to the value of records. I do not wish to convey a wrong impression of the opinions of a distinguished Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Nearly ten years ago I was present when Lord Haldane, then a brilliant lawyer, accustomed to make frequent use of record evidence before the highest Courts of the land, presided at a public meeting held under the auspices of many of the leading historical scholars of this country for the purpose of constituting a Fund to provide instruction at the University of London in the methods of studying historical documents. The Advanced Historical Teaching Fund, of which I was Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, had been originally intended as a memorial to Bishop Creighton, and the reports of the Committee will show the good work that was carried on for seven years in training the younger generation of historical writers. On the occasion to which I have referred Lord Haldane delivered an impressive address, in which the importance of the

¹ P. 25.

² P. 26.

documentary methods of historical research was insisted upon, and when his latest utterance in a Creighton Memorial Lecture on the subject of historical research is read in the light of earlier commendation of the study of original sources, perhaps any impression that he regards documentary evidence with suspicion may be modified.

As regards unprinted materials, we shall probably find in the Reports of the Royal Commission on Public Records many references to new and unsuspected sources of information. There is no general account of the archives of a public nature in this country except the notices in Mr. Scargill-Bird's 'Official Guide to the Public Record Office,' which is devoted to the documents preserved in Chancery Lane. I am not violating official secrecy when I say that the forthcoming (Second) Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records should to a certain extent supply this want. It will deal with the official documents still in the custody of the Courts of Justice, the Judicial or Statutory Registries, the Government Offices, and the various statutory authorities, Commissions, and public institutions within the Metropolitan Area. The variety and extent of the new fields of research have already been indicated by witnesses who have stated in evidence that in some cases outlying archives have not been examined or properly analysed since they were formed, and have not been mentioned in the Reports on the Public Records published between 1800 and 1837. Neither their own custodians nor the officers of the Master of the Rolls seem to have been aware of their extent and their value. The history of many Courts of Law, Registries, and State Departments is still obscure, and much valuable information not hitherto accessible to students has been collected and will be made accessible to students in this Report. The third Report of the Commission will deal with Local Records in England and Wales.

To return to our national Bibliography: the execution has been divided between workers on both sides of the

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Atlantic, the American Committee being primarily responsible for the Tudor period, the English Committee for the Stewart period. The following have individually taken charge of the different sections of the work as far as it is yet planned, viz. :—

Tudor Period: (1) Professor Merriman; (2) Professor Cross; (3) Professor Williston Walker; (4) Professor Richardson; (5) Mr. Corbett; (6) Dr. R. G. Usher; (7) (8) and (9) Professor Cheyney. Some of these gentlemen have been working in the British Museum, supplementing what they have been able to do in America.

Stewart Period: (1) Professor Firth; (2) Professor Hearnshaw, H. D. Hazeltine (Emmanuel College, Cambridge), Rev. J. N. Figgis; (3) Rev. Dr. W. H. Frere, Rev. B. F. Relton, Dr. W. A. Shaw; (4) Sir A. W. Ward, Mr. C. H. Collins Baker, Reginald Blomfield, Mr. R. A. A. Berry (King's College, Cambridge), Dr. A. E. Shipley (Christ's College, Cambridge), Dr. Norman Moore, Principal Hadow, Mr. J. B. Williams; (5) Professor Firth, Colonel E. M. Lloyd; (6) Mr. H. R. Tedder; (7) Mr. H. E. Malden; (8) Archdeacon Cunningham, Dr. Bernard Henderson; (9) Professor Egerton, Mr. E. A. Benians (St. John's College, Cambridge). In this period Professor Hume Brown, Professor Lloyd, and Mr. R. Dunlop take charge of the work dealing with Scotland, Wales, and Ireland respectively; and other historians of distinction promise their assistance.

At the request of the joint Committee, Dr. G. W. Prothero has undertaken the duties of General Editor as well as the special charge of Volume I. The work will be published by Mr. John Murray.

The number of entries has been provisionally estimated at about 10,000. Probably the total will be from 12,000 to 15,000. Each volume will contain an index of authors' names (giving dates of birth and death where known), together with short titles of the works mentioned in the catalogue under each name, and of other matters. We insist upon the titles being taken from the books themselves,

and that all notes shall be based upon real inspection. This is a decision which I think will be heartily approved by historians as well as bibliographers. For Bibliography is essentially a practical pursuit. Like anatomy, with which it has a certain analogy, it must be studied from the actual subject. All mere title knowledge and second-hand information about books should be looked upon with suspicion. Many and long were our discussions as to whether our scheme should aim at including everything, good, bad, and indifferent, or whether it should aim at choice and selection. For my own part, I was at first inclined to recommend the inclusion of almost everything, but I became convinced that the necessary limitations of labour and cost made this impossible. Practical convenience is also in favour of selection. The larger scheme would have made it necessary to introduce the whole of the Thomason tracts, now described in an excellent special catalogue. Moreover, in later times the prodigious growth of topographical history, school books, and small ephemeral treatises of no historical value would have made the work of unwieldy size.

At the same time we shall not include special references to prints, portraits, and maps, except in a collective form. Portraits have already been more or less indexed under the names of their subjects in the 'Dictionary of National Biography.' Dr. Prothero, in his address before the Royal Historical Society already referred to (1903, p. xxiii.), says :

' Our primary rule should be practical convenience—the convenience not of the beginner, or of the *Forscher* anxious to exhaust every possible source of information, but of the great mass of historical readers and students, who come between those extremes. We shall not confine ourselves to the elements, but we shall not attempt to be exhaustive. . . . We shall endeavour to include all books which contain valuable or fruitful ideas not to be found elsewhere, even text-books fit to be recommended to young students ; and we shall prefer omitting bad books to inserting them (as Mr. Larned does) in order to point out that they are bad. But in our selection from the point of view of quality it is impossible

to draw the line of choice with mathematical precision, or to say more than that we should include books good enough to be included, and no other.'

Our bibliography will be in classified order, and not a mere catalogue of titles under authors' names, although some persons who should know better object to classified catalogues. When the late Bodleian Librarian, Mr. Nicholson, was planning the subject-catalogue of the library, he met with opposition from a learned Curator, the late Professor Chandler, who in a printed 'Protest' (1888) said:—

'No real scholar, no man who is capable of literary research, wants a classed catalogue; he hates the very sight of such a thing; it serves no useful purpose, as it is a snare and a delusion. The sciolist, and he alone, thinks how delightful it would be to turn up any given subject and there see all the books that have been written on it. He does not know how impossible the thing is, or what mischiefs result from the attempt to compass such a work.'

To this Nicholson calmly replied:—

'If I were to enter into the details of Prof. Chandler's attack on the subject-catalogue, I trust I should be able absolutely to demolish them to the satisfaction of most members of this University no less than to the satisfaction of most librarians—if indeed any librarian of practical experience in the matter requires such a demolition.'

It is obvious that a work of the nature that I have described could not have been attempted without financial assistance. The Royal Historical Society and the American Historical Association have each voted a sum of fifty pounds a year for three years, and the British Academy has granted twenty-five pounds a year for the same period. But these donations, most welcome as they are, would not have gone very far towards defraying the inevitable expenses of the collection of materials, copying, secretarial duties, etc., quite apart from the cost of printing. It became necessary to ask for contributions from persons

interested in the cause of history, or likely to find the book of use, and one hundred and fifty-two individuals and eighty-seven libraries have either promised or have already sent subscriptions. These results are gratifying, and a sum of nearly one thousand pounds (some part of which is represented by promises) has been secured. The amount of money required by the Committee has not yet, however, been obtained. More subscriptions are needed, and, as the Treasurer of the Fund, I shall be glad to receive them. We place no limit to generosity, but a subscription of two guineas and over will entitle the donor to a copy of the work. When published it will be sold at three guineas nett. I need scarcely add that the various members of the Committee give their services gratuitously. The American Committee are appealing to the public in the United States and Canada.

We had hoped to have been able to publish the first volume by this time, but the work was more or less delayed last year by the Historical Congress, which prevented Dr. Prothero touching it for several months, and this hindrance was followed by his unfortunate illness in the autumn. Dr. Prothero reports that a large part of the material for the first or 'General' volume is ready; the Public Record Office Calendars, the Collections of MSS., State Papers, and the Historical MSS. Commission are indexed; accounts have been prepared of the Spanish and Paris archives as far as they relate to our subject, and some 2000 titles of books coming under the 'General' head have been arranged. There remain the archives of Berlin and elsewhere in Germany as well as Austria, Italy, Belgium, and perhaps Russia, the historical MSS. in British Libraries and those of the great families not dealt with by the Historical MSS. Commission, as well as additions to the titles of books of a general or introductory kind. Much remains before the first volume is ready for the printer, but about half the work is done. As to the second volume (Tudors and Stewarts), all the material of the sixteenth century is in

the possession of Professor Cheyney, and he is now engaged in putting it in order. The American cards have been duplicated to avoid accidents. Dr. Prothero hopes soon to receive this matter. The seventeenth century is not in so forward a state, but about two-thirds of the total number of slips are in the hands of the Editor. After the appearance of the first (or 'General') volume the Tudor part of the second volume will naturally be the earliest to get into type. When all the material for volumes i. and ii. are in type or ready for the printer, the third and final volume, dealing with the period since 1714, will be taken up without delay. The progress has not been slower than is usual in co-operative work, mostly unremunerated, and we confidently expect before very long to present subscribers with the first volume. The laborious undertaking owes much to the distinguished and highly competent General Editor, Dr. G. W. Prothero, who has devoted to the work his well-known energy, industry, zeal, and skill, and to whom both American and English Committees are greatly indebted.

There is every reason to believe that the projected 'Bibliography of British History since 1485' will in all respects be worthy of Anglo-Saxon scholarship; that it will be exhaustive in research and judicious in selection; that it will present an ample and well-systematised assortment of authorities on the subject, and above all that the conduct of the undertaking will not bring discredit upon the Royal Historical Society, which initiated it.