

able to tell us from these sources bears in the main the stamp of trustworthiness, and the historian will use his book. Mr. Willey makes on the whole an interesting story of the antislavery movement in Maine and elsewhere, letting us see among other things the variety of interests even in remote localities bound up with slavery in the South, the apathy of the people, the reluctance to meddling with the matter at the outset of the large majority of the clergy—a class to which at that time a movement largely moral and religious naturally looked for sympathy—and then the gradual awakening of the churches. It was a decisive step when the question was taken out of the domain of morals pure and simple and brought into politics. From 1840, when the first so-called "Liberty" or antislavery presidential ticket polled its 6,977 votes in twelve states, to the final political victory of the cause in 1860, was the period when the real battle was fought. The futility of mere agitation and moral suasion and the impossibility of getting either of the great political parties to do anything more than hold out empty inducements before election—an often repeated experience—brought opposition to slavery as a positive issue into politics.

The remarkable resemblance, in some respects, between these early years of antislavery politics and the present movement against alcohol with its constantly increasing political importance just now so apparent, cannot fail to strike the most casual reader and evidently does not escape the friends of prohibition. The professed student of political science should not be slower than the politicians to recognize the passing of any question from the realm of pure ethics to that of practical politics.

For the student of American politics and constitutional history, the fullest light on the slavery struggle, the most important factor in the development of the nation's history all through the century, is to be welcomed; and he will be glad of the publication of books like this of Mr. Willey's, which give him new material and put on record facts which would otherwise pass away with the present generation.

GEORGE H. BAKER.

*Geschichte der deutschen Historiographie seit dem Auftreten des Humanismus.* Von DR. FRANZ X. VON WEGELE. München, R. Oldenbourg, 1885. — 8vo, x, 1094 pp.

This work, published as the twentieth volume of the *History of the Sciences in Germany*, which is being issued under the auspices of the *Historische Kommission bei der Königlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften* at Munich, and which, like most of the valuable books pub-

lished by that body, is ushered into the world after long expectation and much comment, is not unworthy of its sponsor.

In taking up the historiography and the historical literature of the German people from the sixteenth century on, it serves as a continuation, although in different form, of the historical bibliographies of Wattenbach and Lorenz, which cover respectively the periods from the earliest times down to the middle of the thirteenth century, and from then to the end of the fifteenth century. The work in hand deals with a much more difficult theme than that essayed by the last named writers. The actual mass and range of modern historical writing is far greater, its character and the elements and forces at work in its development are far more diversified, while as yet scholars have directed relatively much less critical and editorial labor to this field.

Wegele makes five periods in his work, of which the last deals with the present century and the founding of German historical science. That this most important and interesting period occupies less than a tenth of the whole book need not be too sharply criticised, when we recall the practical purpose of the book and the difficulty under which a contemporary labors in dealing with the literary products of his own time.

For the American readers this may be regretted, but the student of German history will find it appropriate. The work appears well done in the main, and it has met with a favorable reception from the profession at home. What in such a work specially merits our notice, is the existence in Germany of a living conception of the national history as a distinct whole, and of historical writing and historical science as a definite department of human knowledge, which could call for three such comprehensive and exhaustive bibliographical works as these of Wattenbach, Lorenz, and Wegele.

G. H. B.

*Das Englische Parlament in tausendjährigen Wandlungen vom 9. bis zum Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts.* Von RUDOLF GNEIST. Berlin, Allgemeiner Verein für Deutsche Literatur, 1886.—8vo, 407 pp.

Seldom does it happen that a foreigner is able, in his treatment of the law of a country, to get behind those peculiarities which first strike the eye, and reach those principles which are of the greatest importance. Professor Gneist of Berlin is, however, a remarkable exception to this rule. When quite a young man, his attention was called to the stability of the English government as compared with the frequent constitutional changes on the continent. That he might find the cause he determined