

Book Reviews

H. C. BOWEN, *Ancient Fields*. British Association for the Advancement of Science.

N.D. 80 pp., 5 plates, 5 line figures. 7s. 6d. This account of ancient field systems is the outcome of the first three years' work of the British Association's Research Committee on Ancient Fields, written by the Honorary Secretary. The first chapters deal with the way in which these fields are formed, and with some, but not all, of the problems related to their study. They are followed by a chapter describing some of the methods used in their investigation; and by appendices setting out the nature of the information which is required to make a full record of the existing remains. Another appendix drawing attention to some urgent problems is useful, but by no means exhaustive.

This small book shows how much archaeological information can be obtained by the careful and critical observation of surface features, without necessarily having recourse to excavation. Within its confines, Mr Bowen clearly and concisely points the way for further research. The text is supported by some excellent line drawings and by some splendid photographs, of which Plate IV (taken by Dr St Joseph) is particularly noteworthy. Two points, however, have been insufficiently emphasized. It is not made clear that the 'fields' dealt with in this account are in fact areas of land with readily identifiable boundaries, and it must not be overlooked that other types of land division probably existed. Secondly, the difference between fields occurring on varying geological terrains is not always drawn sharply enough, Mr Bowen confining himself mostly to a description of those on downland.

Britain is remarkably rich in this type of antiquity, which can provide, in places, a sequence of field patterns going back to the Bronze Age. The complexity and variety of the problems involved in their study is amply demonstrated by the selective bibliography contained at the end of the book. But on look-

ing more closely at this bibliography, the gaps in our knowledge become more painfully obvious. This is particularly so with Romano-British sites, but let it be hastily added that this is not the fault of Mr Bowen. It is more the fault of archaeologists who pick sites which will show quick returns for their labour, rather than indulge in the wearisome, foot-slogging investigations, often perhaps profitless, which the study of fields demands. Britain has yet to see the complete examination of any Romano-British settlement, including its fields, in a manner attempted for some later sites. Mr Bowen has rightly drawn attention to the problem of villa fields, but he might with equal justification have mentioned other specific cases, although, to be fair, they could be included under some of his general headings. How, for instance, was land outside some northern forts divided, particularly during the fourth century, when they are known to have been occupied by farmer-soldiers? What were the arrangements, official or otherwise, in force outside towns, and is it possible to link these in any way with the nearest villas? It is perhaps worth mentioning that most surveys of fields near towns have attempted only to show the existence of centuriation, a form of land division which was extremely rare in Britain, as Professor Richmond has pointed out.¹ If this scarcity could be realized, and centuriation forgotten for the time being, some progress with this problem might be made. Until then the full economic picture of Romano-British towns will continue to elude us. In many respects, this applies just as much to the settlements of other times. If we are to understand them fully, they must be examined *in toto*, and it is to be hoped that Mr Bowen's book will encourage and stimulate the archaeologists and historians of all periods to achieve this end.

Such criticisms as have here been made are relatively minor ones, prompted for the most part by the restricted space allotted to Mr

¹ Richmond, I. A., *Roman Britain*, p. 128.

Bowen. A far more serious criticism will be levelled at him if he does not go on to produce a complete, comprehensive study of the subject, together with at least some of the answers to the questions which he himself has asked. Like *Oliver Twist*, the reader of this book will ask for more.

J. S. WACHER

A. W. B. SIMPSON, *An Introduction to the History of the Land Law*. Oxford University Press, 1961. viii+276 pp. 25s.

For over thirty years Sir William Holdsworth's *Historical Introduction to the Land Law* has ranked with the great texts of the modern law schools. It was first published hard on the heels of the sweeping law reforms of 1925, and was designed to present those reforms in a historical perspective as the only way of illuminating what would otherwise be inscrutable law.

Since Holdsworth's first edition, a generation of law scholars and practitioners has matured. What was novel in 1925 is now familiar and well worn; the immediate need for a historical text as Holdsworth saw it has passed. But new needs have taken its place, as advances in economic and social history, of which agricultural history is a part, have generated an eclectic demand for associated studies.

Mr Simpson's book was prepared to serve much the same purpose as Holdsworth's text. As a law textbook of first rank it will do that, and it will do much more besides. His lucid style, free of unnecessary technical terms, will be easily understood by the historian unfamiliar with the niceties of legal concepts, and will ensure the book a catholic appeal.

Unlike Holdsworth, the author treats selected topics as a series of separate chronological studies. Consequently the outlines of his perspectives are sharp, and are not blurred by a laborious regard for the contemporaneity in the development of the law as a whole.

To the social historian Simpson's review is a reminder that the history of the land law is not a theme apart, but is itself a vital feature of the social scene. Legal tradition, rigidly

conservative, in an emergent social and economic order precipitated a conflict which was resolved over the years by the legists shutting themselves away from the real world into a cave of shadows where the fictitious antics of Doe and Roe, and Messrs Fairclaim and Shamtitle keep them company. Only slowly do the shadows merge into substance: Simpson can refer to the Settled Land Act, 1882, as "the only really radical legislative interference with the law of property which the nineteenth century produced." Delay is all the more remarkable since the legislative reforms which could have dispelled the fictions and the need for them had been hammered out generations before by the reformers of Cromwellian England.

This new legal history reminds us again how far the precise concepts of the law are removed from the looser thought of the social and economic histories. How many accepted works would have to be rewritten if in conformity with the lawyers' thought they were required to refrain from mentioning the ownership of land in a day when, at most, a freeholder is seized of a fee or a seignory? Agrarian histories, to take a further example, make familiar references to the Statute of Merton 1235, and the confirmation of the lord's right of approval of the commons subject to the rights of the commoners; but the refinements of the law have limited the common rights so protected to rights in gross bestowed by special grant from the lord of the manor.

Mr Simpson in the main keeps to the great highways of his subject: tenures, estates, alienation, and perpetuities. No agricultural historian can afford to be ignorant of these cardinal themes of the law. But it is in the hedgerows of legal history that the agriculturalist finds more evidence of familiar things. To this lesser, collateral world belong the doctrine of waste, the sale of manorial works, estovers, customary and improved leases, and tenant-right.

When, by his treatment of common rights as a form of profits, the author ventures a brief visit to the hedgerows he tempts us to ask for more. Fortunately the arrangement of his text

is sectionalized to a degree which facilitates the tacking on of additional topics. We hope in some later edition he will do this, and leaving the highways, so well known to him, will search the hedgerows for his new chapters.

D. R. DENMAN

V. H. GALBRAITH, *The Making of Domesday Book*. Clarendon Press, 1961. xii+242 pp., illus. 35s.

It is now twenty years since Professor Galbraith first assailed John Horace Round's thesis that Domesday Book was an accidental and belated postscript to the Conqueror's great survey of England. To Round the object of the survey was to produce the supposed Original Returns, which marshalled the tenurial and agrarian details by vill and hundred, and which proved so cumbersome that they had to be reduced, tentatively and tardily, to the compass of Domesday Book. The second volume, or Little Domesday Book, figures in this theory as an experimental essay, abandoned in favour of Great Domesday's more stringent plan, whilst the *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis* displays the scope of the Original Returns, and Exon Domesday remains an enigma. Round's hypothesis was readily accepted, not least, although Professor Galbraith refrains from saying so, because Round's excellent scholarship was matched only by his malice in controversy, and it continued to command respect after his death.

It is, however, a vulnerable hypothesis, and Professor Galbraith has demonstrated its weakness. Its principal fault is that, although Round himself insisted that we could best understand why Domesday Book was made if we could discover how it was made, he assumed that there was an orderly purpose behind the survey that was concealed by the documents we now possess. The purpose that he chose, a new and just assessment of the geld, was an anachronism, but even that failure of historical sense mattered less than the necessary assumption that a survey of this size and thoroughness was undertaken to produce a report in an inconvenient and un-

wanted form. No matter how unwieldy the hundredal returns would have been, Domesday Book in its present form would be even less useful for assessing geld. Professor Galbraith's approach is precisely opposite to Round's: he assumes that Domesday Book was made deliberately to a careful plan, and that it was written for the Conqueror in his lifetime. The allied manuscripts, from Little Domesday and Exon Domesday to the monastic documents from Kent and elsewhere, fall into a coherent pattern behind the great book, while the whole thesis can now claim powerful support from the discoveries made at the Public Record Office in 1953, when Domesday Book was rebound.

Professor Galbraith reverses a good deal more than Round's primary assumption. To him the Original Returns were not hundredal surveys but documents like Little Domesday and the Exon Domesday, arranged by tenants-in-chief and not by vills, and representing the first stage of the recensions that the Treasury wished to see. The features of its handwriting and arrangement from which Round argued that Little Domesday was a first draft are those that now convince us that it is a fair copy. On the other hand, although Exon Domesday is both an elaborate compilation and the source of another manuscript (either the relevant part of Great Domesday, or a fair copy like Little Domesday) it cannot be described as an abstract of the hypothetical hundredal material, because it does not read like an abstract. Its phrases are leisurely and experimental, the work of men who were more anxious to be thorough than to be lucid. When we turn to the Kentish material, the hundredal rolls twirl even further from probability. They are unlikely to have been rolls in any case, but all other commentators have assumed that the Domesday commissioners must have begun with some large *gatherum* of facts which they painfully reduced to sense. Professor Galbraith uses the Domesday Monachorum and the other Kentish surveys to illustrate one of his most striking suggestions: that, on the contrary, the commissioners probably used their formal sittings to

compile a skeleton brief of lands and tenants which they rearranged by fiefs and then augmented with manorial statistics and other matter.

The rôle of the hundred juries is therefore reduced to their witness upon some simple matters of fact, and some more complicated testimony about right and seisin. The larger towns must have presented peculiar difficulties, as there was no simple formula to which their tenurial pattern could be related, and the position of the returns for the principal south-eastern towns in Little Domesday, and of the more summary accounts of the Devon boroughs in Exon Domesday, may reflect the additional time that was needed to deal with them. How the commissioners came by their figures of manorial stock and values, once they had made their first brief, is an open question still. Professor Galbraith thinks that "sitting tenants and their manorial staff" may have provided them; he has no great faith in the priest and the reeve and the six men of the vill, and it is true that if "si potest plus haberi quam habeatur" were answered honestly it would be a matter for steward and reeve and not for reeve and labourers. It would be a great advance in our understanding of the inquest if we could free the commissioners' open sessions from the burden of collecting details of tenure, claims, stock, and value at the same time. On the other hand, although the formidable nature of the survey once seemed a large obstacle to accepting at its face value Little Domesday's statement that the *descriptio* of England was made in 1086, the palaeographical and diplomatic evidence now make it plain that the work was finished by the summer of 1087. We need more evidence on the commissioners' activities before we decide that they could or could not have followed a particular course; and we may yet find it.

It is very difficult to interpret Domesday Book, but the prizes are worth any effort. Professor Galbraith's work has brought them all much closer: he may, indeed, be said to have won some of them himself. Domesday Book is one of the great facts of our history; an un-

paralleled monument to the skill and energy of the Conqueror's servants, and to the administrative traditions of the Old English state. The information that it contains is astonishing, but the historical significance of the manuscripts is not to be measured by their contents alone. Professor Darby's *Domesday Geographies* point to one profitable way of exploiting the great survey, but they have also opened questions which only such enquiries as Professor Galbraith's can answer. If we can discover how Domesday Book was made we shall not only discover why it was made, but shall also enormously increase our knowledge of eleventh-century England, enriching our picture of "how it was peopled" with that last and most rewarding discovery: "with what sort of men."

GEOFFREY MARTIN

ALAN HARRIS, *The Rural Landscape of the East Riding of Yorkshire, 1700-1850*. A study in historical geography. Oxford University Press for the University of Hull, 1961. xvi+136 pp. 25s.

This clearly composed book deals with a century and a half of landscape changes in the East Riding of Yorkshire, a period which the author claims to be "the most formative" in the long history of the countryside. More than a half of the area of the East Riding was still in open fields at the end of the seventeenth century, and it is probably true to say that the enclosure of these lands and the accompanying technical and social changes represent the most radical transformation of this countryside since the clearance of the primitive forests of the Wolds that began before the Bronze Age.

The author begins with an outline of the East Riding's physical geography, describing the natural regions whose features are clearly written into the agrarian history of the area. The rest of the book is made up of three long chapters representing three cross-sections in time of the East Riding. The first, entitled "the Old Order," presents a detailed picture of farming in the various regions of the Wolds, Holderness, the Siltlands along the Humber,

the Vale of York, and the Jurassic hills, at the beginning of the eighteenth century. This makes most attractive and refreshing reading because it draws so many details from a wide variety of primary sources. The second period picture deals with the changing countrysides of the eighteenth century. The last section reviews the agriculture of the East Riding about the middle of the nineteenth century, when the revolutionary changes of the enclosure movement are ended and the pattern of present-day farming is clearly established.

The student of agricultural history cannot fail to find many interesting points in this book. Mr Harris produces a wealth of evidence on the variations of field patterns in the east Yorkshire townships in the early eighteenth century. At Kirby Grindalythe the open fields lay in pairs along the wide valley that runs through the chalk wolds. Some of the wold settlements farmed with an 'infield-outfield' system, and in certain villages as many as seven outfields have been recognized. At Burton Pidsea in Holderness there were two large open fields, divided from each other by a line of ancient enclosures of unknown age. At Burton Agnes, a village of the Jurassic hills whose lands stretch on to the Wolds, the fields on the bare wold-top remained open long after the lower lands had been enclosed. And so one could continue with illuminating details from the local scene, details that are the most essential part of our studies.

In the later parts of the book Mr Harris discusses the various kinds of hedging materials, and the plans of the red-brick, pantiled farmhouses that arose away from the clustered villages at the beginning of the nineteenth century. With the help of an air photograph he shows how the making of a park at Sledmere transformed the geography of a village. Emigration from wold villages in the 1840's, the custom of boarding large numbers of unmarried labourers in the spacious farmhouses of the chalk country, the techniques of using bones as a fertilizer, and the disappearance of the "old-fashioned Holderness shorthorn that was famous for its great size and profuse milk yield," all come under

review in this excellent book. The work is illustrated by nearly forty line maps, many of them drawn from material in the archives that the author has used so thoroughly. This is historical geography in the best sense of the word, in that the author is a trained geographer and a competent historian.

R. MILLWARD

PHILIP WRIGHT, *Old Farm Implements*. A. and C. Black, 1961. xvi+96 pp., illustrated. 25s.

Mr Wright, the son of a Suffolk farmer, is an Essex parson, who has been collecting old farm and farmhouse implements since his youth. In his book he describes his collection with the help of photographs and drawings. Although he does not pretend to have written a history of farm implements, he has, nevertheless, performed a useful service; because too often collectors allow vital information about the age, place of origin, and function of their implements to go unrecorded.

Most of Mr Wright's implements are East Anglian, and his collection is fairly comprehensive. One of his rarer tools is a mechanical seed broadcaster made in 1780. It is a modification of the seed fiddle; but instead of fiddling the sower turns a crank handle, which is attached by finely made bevel gears to a revolving plate on to which the seed falls.

As well as describing the uses of his implements, Mr Wright also recalls some of the rural customs and crafts practised in Suffolk before the first World War. In his descriptions of the old farm labourers of that time performing their work, he evokes the authentic flavour of farm life in the days before mechanization.

M. A. HAVINDEN

J. GERAINT JENKINS, *The English Farm Wagon: Origin and Structure*. Pub. by the Oakwood Press for the Museum of English Rural Life (University of Reading), 1961. xii+248 pp.; 58 illus. 42s.

English 'Folk Life', for want of a better term, is a subject not well endowed with textbooks, and such an authoritative and comprehensive

work as this is therefore doubly welcome.

For many years museums have been erratically collecting material of the countryside; ploughs, smocks, and craftsmen's tools. But although this equipment may have a sentimental value or be curiously contrived, it rarely has an intrinsic value of its own. These material objects are only fully useful in reconstructing the past daily life of the countryside in so far as information is recorded about their background history. Unfortunately, this information is vanishing as rapidly as the objects themselves, and there is considerable urgency about the gathering for future generations of such information as now remains. Such was the plight of the English farm wagon a few years ago. One realized that there were 'regional variations'. But as to what these variations were, their geographical distribution, and the reasons behind them, no one knew. A museum professing to collect within its county preserved a wagon which now proves to have come from four counties and 160 miles away. Perhaps one should be grateful that it was preserved, for at that time very few large specimens were being collected by our museums. As this work now published progressed, selected wagons were collected by the Museum of English Rural Life, and that Museum (as shown in Appendix IV of the book) has now preserved twenty-one wagons. Another twenty-one are to be found in other English and Welsh museums.

In the course of the survey on which the regional part of this book is based, Mr Jenkins investigated nearly 600 wagons, with the assistance of organizations such as the National Farmers' Union, the Rural Industries Bureau, and regional museums. These examples, the last sad remnants of a past era of transport, stood axle deep in weeds and rubbish in out-of-the-way corners of farms, with flaking paint and rotting planks.

The book is usefully written in two parts: "Origins" and "Structure." In the former, the evolution of the four-wheeled wagon is discussed and its relation to other wheeled transport; the evolution of wagon-building techniques is dealt with in a section thought-

fully produced and of considerable interest; and the geographical distribution of wagons throughout Europe leads to the consideration of such factors as topography, economics, cultures, and field patterns.

Then follows a detailed and comprehensive section on the building and construction of an English farm wagon, ending with a complete classification of Box and Bow wagons. All 28 types are described in detail and illustrated by photograph. The four appendices list measurements, features of construction, wagon types county by county, and a catalogue of wagons in museums.

For the first time we have a complete and dispassionate survey of the English farm wagon. It may well prove to be, in a more real sense than the colloquial, the "last word" on the subject, for few wagons now remain outside museums. This work also demonstrates clearly that folk life is not a subject worthy only of amateur dabblers. It is a serious discipline worthy of proper attention, and one hopes that other universities may be stimulated, along with our museums, to devote more time and energy to the study of other aspects of rural material before it is too late.

FRANK ATKINSON

MARGARET BEATTIE BOGUE, *Patterns from the Sod; Land Use and Tenure in the Grand Prairie, 1850-1900* [Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, xxiv, Land Series I]. Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, 1959. 328 pp., maps. \$2.50.

The problems of landownership, tenure, and use are of vital importance in developing the agricultural history of an area or of a nation. This intensive study of large landholdings in eight counties of east central Illinois casts light upon all of these problems. Many more studies of this nature must be made before a definitive history of American agriculture can be written.

British historians will find the study similar to some of their studies in so far as the size of the area covered is concerned. However, the study deals with the settlement and development of a new, raw land. The author's pur-

pose is to trace significant changes in land use and ownership in the eight counties from the frontier period to the 1890's, to investigate the reasons for the gradual growth in tenancy, and to analyse major conflicts in economic interests among different groups of landowners.

The original patterns of landownership grew out of the sales of federal, state, county, and railroad lands. The great majority of purchasers bought small tracts which they farmed themselves. However, many investors bought large tracts. Some of these investors rented their lands to small farmers, while others turned their estates to cattle raising. During the period after the Civil War, some of the large holdings, particularly those devoted to cattle, disappeared, as land was drained and otherwise improved. New holdings of large size developed gradually as farmers and business men invested in farmland for the purpose of renting it. As the land was improved and more intensive agriculture was undertaken, rents increased. In many respects, both owners and tenants found that the tenancy system met their needs.

By the end of the nineteenth century the region was gaining a reputation as one of the richest agricultural areas in the United States. Its lands commanded high prices on the real-estate market and much capital had been invested through eastern loans placed by loan agents.

This brief indication of the approach to and conclusions of the study under review is incomplete unless one indicates the thorough, scholarly manner in which the problems have been approached and the conclusions drawn. The study is an outstanding contribution to the history of American agriculture.

WAYNE D. RASMUSSEN

R. F. HUNNISETT, *The Medieval Coroner*. Cambridge University Press, 1961. xiv+218 pp. 30s.

The office of coroner was established in English counties in September 1194, in the boroughs from 1200, and in the franchises during the thirteenth century. As 'keeper of

the pleas of the crown' the coroner was a specialist in sudden death, and as time went on became more so as his regular duties were confined to holding inquests on dead bodies, receiving abjurations of the realm by felons in sanctuary, promulgating outlawries, hearing appeals, the confessions of felons, and the appeals of those who wished to save themselves by 'turning king's evidence' and were called approvers (*probatores*). The coroner's procedure was to attach witnesses and suspects, to value and safeguard property which might later be forfeited, to record details. He might have to conduct some four or five abjurations of the realm every year, and there is an excellent discussion of this well-known practice, but other work made greater calls on his time and could be unpleasant. To Mr Hunnisett's many examples may be added the viewing in 1316-17 (a famine year) of 71 dead bodies in Maidstone gaol, where twenty years later four men were hired for a week at 6d. a day each and a bonus to clear out the *camera secreta* with wooden forks and scoops by the light of candles.¹

Originally the coroner served as a check upon the sheriff; but the sheriff was also a check upon the coroner, and never ceased to be the more important functionary. Though both in the thirteenth-century heyday were drawn from the *buzones* class, it seems that after c. 1300 when the knighthood qualification for the coroner was waived, the office tended to attract those who were striving to rise in the world. In 1382 we see an Oxfordshire coroner walking behind his plough (p. 142), in 1424 a Leicestershire coroner was 'advanced' to be under-sheriff (p. 196). Such men were of diminished account beside escheators, assessors of taxes, and J.P.s. Yet there were some to desire the office and its opportunities for extortion, and here and there great families like the Pelhams of Sussex number coroners among their forbears.

Mr Hunnisett has written a valuable and much-needed monograph in the best traditions of Public Record scholarship, scrupulous, comprehensive, and strictly institution-

¹ Lambeth Court Roll Collection, Nos. 659, 665.

al. To historians the evidential value of coroners' rolls may be as important as knowledge of the office itself, and it would have been useful to have a list of those in print, and also an ordered bibliography of work already done on the subject. But these are minor matters. There is a select glossary of legal terms, and a good index.

F. R. H. DU BOULAY

EDMUND RUFFIN, *An Essay on Calcareous Manures*, ed. by J. Carlyle Sitterson. Oxford University Press for Harvard U.P., 1961. xxxvi+200 pp. 34s.

It is always an advantage to have an easily accessible and comparatively cheap reprint of a book written by a farming pioneer. By so much is this one the more welcome, although I suspect that a student's reading of such works is often limited to the editor's introduction, which can usually be relied upon to give an authentic summary in modern language. Original copies of early American publications on the theory and practice of farming in the U.S.A. are difficult to come by in this country, where their main interest can be little more than the measure in which the American writers depend upon the theories and methods detailed in the European literature.

There are nevertheless certain specific orthodoxies relating to the subject that are familiar enough. The unwisdom of the one-crop economy of the early settlers in the south, who at first depended very largely upon continuous cropping with tobacco as an economic necessity, or, if the term is preferable, as a cash crop, is one of these. The accepted consequence was declining fertility until the returns became so small that the farmer was forced to cultivate a fresh area, possibly farther west.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the tidewater farmers of Virginia were finding it difficult to make a living because of falling yields. Ruffin began his working life on a declining plantation, but although he then began the series of agricultural experiments that was to play a large part in the rehabilitation of the area, it was only after he had failed to

carve out a political career that he returned to his plantation work in 1826.

Soil exhaustion had by then become so widespread in Maryland and Virginia that yields of maize had fallen to ten bushels an acre, and of wheat to no more than six, the latter being the level to which production on the open fields of thirteenth-century England had often approximated. Even when the crops are cultivated for subsistence only, such yields are appallingly low.

Ruffin's first attempts to restore the fertility of his lands by the accepted methods of crop rotation, including an occasional clover crop, and the use of organic manures, failed dismally. He therefore began a series of chemical analyses of his soil, and carefully observed the natural ecology, or the weeds that flourished on land that had temporarily fallen out of cultivation. From these observations and tests he came to the conclusion that soil acidity and lack of calcium carbonate were the causes of the declining yields. So early as 1818 he began to dig marl and use it as a fertilizer at the rate of 125 to 200 bushels an acre. The result was so successful that he continued the process on a larger acreage with the same satisfying returns.

These results were described first in an essay in the *American Farmer* of 1821. Later Ruffin expanded his theories and experiments in the book here reprinted. He had read the early agricultural chemists, Home, Kirwan, Dundonald, Davy, and he was acquainted with some English and French farming textbooks, but he had little specific chemical skill—as he would have been the first to acknowledge. It would be too lengthy a task to follow the course of his experiments, observations, and the arguments he based upon them—that is indeed no less than the contents of the book—but clearly both his example and his writings had marked effects upon the restoration of a measure of prosperity to these lands during the three decades that preceded the outbreak of the American Civil War. He was a formidable partisan of the south, and his was the hand which, under orders of course, fired the first shot at Fort Sumter.

Ruffin's book described his theories, their practical effects, the methods and cost of digging marl, the use of gypsum, and the quantity and cost of the calcareous manure that ought to be applied. It was a complete handbook, and though the subject was by no means new in the world—Pliny had discussed the use of marl, and both marl and lime figure largely in the subsequent literature—it was a novelty in Ruffin's countryside, and his example and precept had remarkable results there. He was in the strict line of agricultural improvers.

G. E. FUSSELL

F. J. FISHER (ed.), *Essays in the Economic and Social History of Tudor and Stuart England, in honour of R. H. Tawney*. Cambridge University Press, 1961. [vi]+236 pp. 30s.

It is a happy thing that this volume of essays appeared, if somewhat belatedly, and with a surprising number of misprints, in time for the *doyen* of English social, economic, and agricultural historians to read it. The variety of the contributions bears eloquent testimony to the width, if not in all cases to the depth, of that great mind: each one can trace its ancestry to some topic illuminated by Professor Tawney himself. Christopher Hill reappraises the connection between protestantism and capitalism; Maurice Beresford writes on enclosure; Joan Thirsk on rural industries; Lawrence Stone on Robert Cecil's fruits of office; D. C. Coleman on a Restoration financier; Ralph Davis on England and the Mediterranean; Robert Ashton on Charles I's relations with the City; and G. E. Aylmer and D. H. Pennington on the finances of the nation. In his introductory essay, Professor Fisher attempts the daunting task of drawing the net round this varied haul, and aptly comments that "Unanimity is scarcely a characteristic of those whose work owes most to Tawney's influence. . . His influence has been exercised through more varied channels and at a more profound level. . . And even those who reject his views most vigorously find themselves answering, rather than ignoring, the questions which he has raised."

The most controversial, and not the least fascinating, essay is Mr Hill's. Happily this is not the place for an extended critique of his delicately poised abstractions. But it is perhaps a pity that, for the vague and inadequate term 'puritanism', he has substituted the even vaguer and more inadequate term protestantism: for it is only on its ultimate fringes that the latter really merges with capitalism. It may well be that in the last resort protestantism is a challenge to authority and a "religion of the heart;" but if that is the whole story, only a tiny fraction of the people of England, Holland, Scotland, Denmark, Sweden, north Germany, and Huguenot France were ever 'protestants'. Who shall say, moreover, that there was no *authority* in Knox's Edinburgh or Calvin's Geneva? Or that the un-capitalist anglicanism of Whitgift and Hooker was not essentially protestant? And in the whole dispute on capitalism and religion one wonders, at times, whether puritanism did not owe a good deal more to capitalism than the other way about.

For readers of this review, the invidious task of selecting from the remaining essays is fortunately resolved by their subject matter. Only two relate specifically to agrarian topics. In view of Tawney's abiding emphasis on English agricultural interests, from his first major book *The Agrarian Problem* to his most controversial paper *The Rise of the Gentry*, one could have wished for more. But if the dishes are few, one can be grateful for their substance. Professor Beresford writes, somewhat indigestibly, on the debate on enclosure by agreement, and traces the tale from the reluctant concessions of Tudor statutes to the "benevolent neutrality of the Hanoverian Enclosure Acts." He is not concerned solely with official views upon the rival claims of "habitation *versus* improvement," but with the changing temper of public opinion at large. In this change he traces not only an admission that enclosure need not entail depopulation, but "a concession to the realities of variety in local agrarian practice; an aspect [*sic*] of faith in the market mechanism and a distrust of regulation; finally, a search for an

administrative device whereby enclosure could be 'Regulated.'" He justly stresses the inevitability of the movement, but the conclusions drawn from the decline in vocal opposition to it are perhaps too sanguine.

In 'Industries in the Countryside' Mrs Thirsk breaks more original ground. Concentrating her attention on the clothing and knitting industries of Suffolk, Wiltshire, Kent, Westmorland, and the north-west corner of Yorkshire, she aims, not to describe the nature and organization of rural employments, an occupation for a lifetime's research, but to explain their location. Brushing aside the familiar—perhaps wearisomely familiar—explanation in the presence of local supplies of raw material, adequate streams, and good communications with markets, she seeks "in an analysis of the farming economy and, more particularly, the social structure of the local community some of the circumstances which favoured the growth of rural industries in one region rather than another." In each of the areas described, society consisted of populous communities of small farmers, either freeholders or secure tenants, pursuing a pastoral economy, based either on dairying or breeding, in districts where commons were extensive or farmland was early enclosed, where manorial organization and co-operative farming were weak, and where partible inheritance was prevalent. In Dentdale and Garsdale, the inhabitants specifically stated in 1634 that as a result of excessive morcellation of holdings due to gavelkind tenure, they could not maintain themselves apart from their industry in knitting stockings. In parts of Hertfordshire, Westmorland, Suffolk, the Midlands, and the Weald of Kent, population was also increasing very rapidly at this time, and the need for by-industries to eke out the dwindling incomes of the poor was acute. (Incidentally, a Chancery case relating to a Hatfield clothier in James I's reign shows that the Hertfordshire cloth industry was perhaps not so moribund as Mrs Thirsk suggests.) A thesis so wide-ranging in its implications as that developed in this brief essay is bound to raise questions and provoke criticism; but it is as im-

portant for what it suggests as for what it proves. Certainly it applies to other rural employments, such as many types of woodcraft, as much as to the local examples of clothing and stocking knitting adduced by Mrs Thirsk.

ALAN EVERITT

ELIZABETH MELLING (ed.), *Aspects of Agriculture and Industry (Kentish Sources, III)*. Maidstone, Kent County Council, 1961. viii+150 pp. 6s. 6d.

The Archives Office of the K.C.C. is to be congratulated on continuing its admirable and very modestly priced series of source books. The present volume ventures boldly into economic territory, and will be valuable to both amateur and professional historians. It is edited by Miss Melling with the same skill and discretion as the first two. The only small criticisms which may be offered are that it perhaps over-emphasizes the wealth and scale of Kentish farming, and that a few archaic or mis-spelt place-names might have been modernized or corrected ("Godington" on p. 12 should be Godinton, "Linstead" on p. 15 Lynsted, "Cossenten" on p. 23 Cossington, "Barnham" on p. 61 Barham, "Milstead" on p. 86 Milsted). The industrial section of the book covers such topics as iron-smelting, clothing, paper-making, brewing, fishing, and copperas manufacture. It specifically excludes rural and urban crafts like the blacksmith's, carpenter's, wheelwright's, potter's, and tiler's. These, one hopes, may form the subject-matter of a subsequent volume in the series, for they were of great importance in the rural economy of well-wooded counties like Kent.

As is fitting in a county where farming is still the staple industry, agriculture, with 90 pages, occupies the bulk of the volume. In the first section, agrarian information from twelve probate inventories (1565-1729) is printed, providing a detailed picture of the husbandry of a sheep farmer of Sheppey, a gentleman of Aylesford, a market gardener of Sandwich, several tenant farmers on the Downs, and yeomen of Charing, Cranbrook, Barham, Bromley, and Otford. Perhaps the most inter-

esting inventory is that of John Toke of Godinton Place, ancestor of Nicholas Toke, a great Kentish character of the seventeenth century, already familiar to agricultural historians through his *Account Book*, edited for the British Academy by Miss E. C. Lodge in 1927. The next section of the book is based upon the archives of the Filmer family, and illustrates such matters as crop rotation, fruit growing, digging marl, and hiring labourers; it includes a lengthy extract from Sir Edward's farming accounts. In the two concluding sections are printed a series of leases, covenants, and 'particulars' of tenant farms; an extract from the hop accounts of Richard Tylden, squire of Milsted in 1743; and a specification for an oast house to be built near Hadlow in 1714.

In her introduction, the editor has several points of interest to make on the Kentish system of landholding—if system is the word. Kent was not a county of vast or compact aristocratic estates, like some of the Midland shires. For the most part it was, and is, a county of small parishes, small fields, small farms, small manor-houses, and relatively small gentry. The typical agricultural units were the smallholdings of husbandmen, the farms of yeomen-freeholders, and the modest estates of ancient gentry like the Oxindens of Deane, the Twysdens of Roydon Hall, and the Filmers of East Sutton Place. The pattern of landholding was exceedingly complex, and was in constant flux as a result of gavelkind inheritance and frequent intermarriage between minor local landowners. Manors bore no relation to parishes; their lands often lay intermingled with one another; many of them possessed detached portions in Weald or Marsh; and the estates of the gentry were usually scattered in small parcels over several parishes. And if anyone supposes that early enclosure necessarily resulted in neatly rounded farms, ripe for capitalist exploitation, he should glance at the maps on pp. 72 and 75.

The truth is that until the end of the eighteenth century the rural economy of Kent was characterized by two apparently opposing

tendencies: far-reaching enterprise, and intense conservatism. So early as the sixteenth century, many Kentish farmers were responding with remarkable enthusiasm to the challenge of expanding markets. Towns in the North of England and the Netherlands were furnished with Kentish wheat; maltsters and fruiterers of London were supplied with barley from Thanet and apples and cherries from Hartlip and Teynham. Cattle were driven from Wales and Yorkshire to be fattened on Romney Marsh; hops were dispatched from Canterbury by way of the North Sea to Stourbridge Fair; and beer was exported from Sandwich to slake the thirst of Flemish burghers.

But enterprise and specialization were not the whole story. The areas of the county whose economy was fully geared to metropolitan or foreign markets were relatively circumscribed, and strictly capitalist farms resembled scattered archipelagoes surrounded by a sea of peasant husbandry. In the face of eighteenth-century improvements, moreover, as Miss Melling shows, the county remained curiously unresponsive; while even on the estates of yeomen and gentlemen advanced methods operated in essentially conservative conditions. Georgian gentry like the Tyldens and Filmers still devoted to the care of their woods and farms the same old-fashioned personal attention as their Caroline forebears. They were neither absentees nor *fainéants*, and the gulf between them and their labourers was not yet unbridgeable. The squire's wife at Milsted Court still went hop-picking with Poll Croyden and Old Goody Dutnal in George II's reign; many Kentish labourers still lived "in the house," in semi-feudal style, in the days of Queen Victoria. These conditions were not peculiar to Kent; but their continuance in a county so populous and apparently 'advanced' may seem surprising. The explanation seems to lie in the peculiar social conditions of the county. Kent was, after all, a sea-girt peninsula, and there were probably few shires whose society was more deeply rooted and inbred, or where the force of kinship was more powerful. Until the nineteenth

century there was very real truth in the old adage, "in Kent they are all first cousins." One of the minor and forgotten curiosities of Victorian historiography is a volume of essays compiled by a farming club in East Kent, in which a few dozen local yeomen traced their history back to Tudor and Stuart husbandmen or gentry, and analysed their bewildering interrelationships with neighbouring farmers. They were evidently much more than a club, they were a family: and they were intensely proud of their local descent.

ALAN EVERITT

J. D. CHAMBERS, *The Workshop of the World*. Oxford University Press, for the Home University Library, 1961. viii+240 pp. 8s. 6d.

Professor Chambers's survey of British economic development between 1820 and 1870 follows that by Professor Ashton of the period from 1750 to 1830 in the same series; it maintains the same high standard in lucid compression and wise judgement of the matters to be included in so small a volume. His eight chapters deal successively with a general survey; machine industry and transport; agriculture and the corn laws; foreign trade and fiscal policy; banking, credit, and joint stock enterprise; years of crisis; population and the growth of towns; and labour in the 'industry State'. The twenty small pages devoted to agriculture and the corn laws provide an intelligible and balanced account of the major controversies and changes of this half-century and on the same scale could hardly be bettered, save in the use of figures. For Professor Chambers throws figures into the text of this and other chapters with no indications of their widely differing degrees of reliability and accuracy. On p. 86 he tells his reader that "the import of beef was only 9 per cent of consumption and of mutton 7 per cent" with no qualifications as to date or the probability of the estimate; and on the next page he tells us that rent abatements and remissions between 1878-9 and 1893-4 were 22.6 per cent for England and Wales as a whole and 18.5 per cent for Scotland, in precisely the same way

as he gives on p. 175 the population figures from the decennial census. Such misuse of statistics is all the more regrettable since it is at this elementary level that readers should surely be made aware both of the importance of quantitative evidence and of the pitfalls which it contains.

EDITH H. WHETHAM

M. K. ASHBY, *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe, 1859-1919*. Cambridge University Press, 1961. 298 pp. 25s.

This is the story of a man "born into poverty, to a family which had sunk almost to disgrace, of illegitimate paternity," who "not only came to have a well-furnished mind and to discharge many offices with faithfulness and influence, but also, a greater achievement, to confront life happily." Joseph Ashby worked throughout his life to better the lot of his rural neighbours; and if he never achieved actual fame, his influence was both lasting and immense. Yet the whole of his life, except for the last few years, was spent in a tiny, secluded Warwickshire village.

The village of Tysoe has been best known hitherto for its ancient Red Horse cut in a hillside. Of this the book tells little: only that, on enclosure, it was "penned up within the hedges, without even a footpath to it. The old Whitsun Games were never held again." Some account of surviving legends and customs, connected with this monument, or of memories of these, would have been a welcome addition to this valuable collection of rural lore. But perhaps with the penning up of the Red Horse its legends died.

Miss Ashby writes a fine rhythmical prose. Sometimes, in descriptive passages, it approaches poetry. "Around every apple tree grew sweet violets, white or pink or blue. Whiteness in violets was like Sundayness in a frock; it made them sacred, saintly." Joseph himself appears to have had this gift, or so it would appear from two lyric fragments quoted. His hymns are rather less interesting, being Wesleyan in flavour, and following too closely the inimitable Charles.

Joseph Ashby started work in the fields at

the age of nine, on Saturdays and during school holidays, scaring birds in the field and helping his mother to glean after harvest. A most interesting and detailed account of this latter process is given. It is also interesting to learn that at Tysoe, before the advent of the mechanical reaper, it was the women who reaped by sickle and the men who followed behind to tie the sheaves and set them up in shucks.

At eleven years old Joseph Ashby left school and started his apprenticeship as a farm labourer—under two masters. The first, a shepherd called John Makepiece, had ugly tales to tell of times when “there weren’t no Methodists, nor no Quakers neither, to stop ‘em ‘aatin’ and tell ‘em to look to the sky.” This shepherd, too, “would watch—and hold Joseph’s arm so that he must watch too—a fight of cats and rats in the barn, or a hawk after little birds, a weasel circling a fascinated rabbit, and never show an impulse to save the weaker creature. When the little drama reached its deadly end, his grasp on Joe’s arm would tighten oddly and he would give a little cluck-cluck of satisfaction.”

The second master, Jasper the carter, thought John’s tales “beant fit for a bwoy’s ears;” and when all three worked together at lambing time it seemed to the boy that Jasper, rather than John, was the good shepherd of metaphor. “He looked the part and acted it too; he would handle tenderly the ‘poor-doing’ lambs, whereas John would sometimes surreptitiously finish their little lives.”

Among the older labourers with whom he worked, memories lingered of the enclosure of 1796 and of its effects. At a time when it is fashionable to decry the so-called evil effects of the enclosure movement, it is salutary to come across the following passage. “Enclosures would have done good if ther had been justice in ‘em. They give folks allotments now instid o’ ther rights—on a slope so steep a two-legged animal can’t stand, let alone dig.” In the old days you could walk all through the parish and all round it by the balks and headlands and cut wood on the waste, if there was any. “And what can you do now, Jasper?”

asked Lynes. “Make a farmer mad and you be done.” Again, the contemporary view that enclosure brought more employment, at any rate temporarily, is not supported by evidence from Tysoe. “The labourers of Tysoe had hopes that at least enclosures would bring incidental opportunities: they would be employed to plant the hedges and drain the fields, but gangs of men accustomed to the new jobs were brought in by the larger owners. There was work for a few men on the roads for which the Commissioners had provided, enough to prevent any rise in the number of men on the round, but not enough to reduce it.” On the other hand, the right to gather wood on the wastes had been, for many years, of little worth, since with the growth of population there was not enough wood to go round. Now with enclosure “the poor were well compensated for their right to cut non-existent wood; the earl of Northampton and his heirs were put in charge of land whose rent would be spent on coal for them.”

The “good shepherd” soon gained an ascendancy over Joseph, and it was he who first influenced Joseph towards Methodism. Joseph Ashby’s forebears had been Quakers but his mother was ‘church’. It was only when Joseph Arch came to Tysoe, in the course of his campaign for higher wages, that Joseph Ashby was to realize the moral courage of the Primitive Methodists as well as their comprehension of social problems. As with the Tolpuddle Martyrs, what was remarkable was their restraint in revolt. Thus a local preacher proclaimed: “Men are not equal. No! but they are brothers! Our neighbours on the farms and in the great houses be lucky and selfish and proud, and they expect you and me to put up with a lot of nonsense, but they be our brothers. Bitter in our hearts we are, but we can remember it; they and we be brothers.”

During the nineties Joseph Ashby conducted a tour which combined propaganda for the Local Restoration League with a survey of rural conditions. Some of his findings were used by Hasbach in his *History of the English Agricultural Labourer*; and his work sheets

were used as the model of an investigation made by the Ministry of Agriculture during the First World War.

The sort of data collected were details of: smallholdings; wages of farm labourers; condition and rent of cottages; changes in population; membership of thrift associations; pauperism; machinery and its effects on labour. What emerged were the extraordinary local variations. To quote one instance: "In adjacent villages, wages would differ by two shillings a week, that is, by nearly twenty per cent, without any difference in demand or supply; in villages further apart though with similar circumstances there could be a difference of four or even five shillings—almost fifty per cent."

The passages quoted above will show that this book contains information of the greatest interest to the agricultural, as well as to the local, historian. It is beautifully narrated, and the central character emerges as of iron will and integrity, but at the same time kind, gentle, and lovable. Although in many ways a child of his period, one last quotation may illustrate that in the training of children he was ahead of his time. "When a little daughter persistently took what was not hers, for no reason whatever so far as he could make out, he would not let my mother punish: 'We will leave ill alone when it is such a mystery.'"

H. A. BEECHAM

CLARICE S. DAVIES (ed.), *A History of Macclesfield*. Manchester University Press, 1961. xiv+404 pp. 21s.

Dr Davies's book, published to celebrate the seven hundredth anniversary of the granting of a borough charter to Macclesfield, is a salutary reminder that agricultural history is not confined to the countryside, but may also be sought in the archives of towns. Original documents relating to the town have fortunately survived in exceptional quantities, and Dr Davies has used them skilfully in the difficult task of producing a narrative acceptable both to scholars and to local patriots. Surrounded by the Royal Forest of Macclesfield, the town depended in the later Middle Ages

almost entirely on the various branches of the traffic in cattle, horses, and sheep. It is clear from the charter that the burgesses of 1261, with their open fields and commons (which survived into the early nineteenth century), owned many head of livestock. Two hundred and fifty years later, when Wolsey's commissioners were enquiring about the enclosure of the Forest, the economic links between town and country persisted as strongly as ever. After the passage of a further quarter-millennium the common lands, of which the enclosure was completed in 1804, were proving a source of local wealth in the form of coal, stone, and brick-earth, and a large copper-works had been built on an authorized encroachment from 1758 onwards. Dr Davies concludes (p. 98) that Macclesfield, "despite the industrial revolution, was in the nineteenth century still a town with many farms contained within its boundaries and many people who worked on the land . . . [today] there are still farmers in the borough and some of them sell their produce in the market." The mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Macclesfield are to be congratulated on their good fortune and commended for their civic spirit in commissioning the compilation and publication of this handsome and reasonably priced volume.

W. H. CHALONER

A Bibliography of the History of Wales. Prepared by the History and Law Committee of the Board of Celtic Studies of the University of Wales. University of Wales Press, 2nd edn, 1962. xviii+330 pp. 45s.

For a generation the first edition of this bibliography, edited by R. T. Jenkins and William Rees, has guided those venturing to explore the history of Wales, but increasingly its deficiencies became obvious. Now, after a prolonged period of gestation, a second edition has appeared. In the first there were about 1,600 entries, in the second there are over 3,500. This increase is accounted for partly by contributions to the subject since 1931 and partly by the insertion of works published before that date previously omitted. Unfor-

tunately, all the information contained in the first edition is not reproduced in the second. Some entries have been deleted and others have been condensed and there is no editorial indication of the policy adopted.

The new edition follows almost exactly the broad plan of the old, so it is possible to assess in a rough and ready manner the shifts in historiography. Between A.D. 400 and 1500, the changes are fairly slight, with 411 entries in the new edition compared with 332 in the old. The great increase in entries occurs from 1500. The medieval entries total one-fifth of the 1931 edition whereas they account for only one-ninth of the 1962 edition. And the increase is particularly marked in the sixteenth century where the number increases from 108 to 304. In both cases the largest number of entries is concerned with the period since 1789 where the proportion has remained very approximately the same at about one-quarter while the number of entries has increased from 435 to 856. One factor in this increase has been the result of the insertion of more recent entries in time and period. Neither of the dead-lines whether of date of publication up to 31 December 1958 nor of entries to 1914 have been strictly observed. Consequently the coverage of the period since the First World War is very uneven.

One of the problems faced by the bibliographer of Wales is to decide where to draw the line. For many purposes and many periods the history of Wales is treated as part of the history of a larger area. In the volume under review, the problem has been solved in different ways by the various contributors. In the section on Ancient Wales to A.D. 400 over 70 entries deal with General Prehistory and Roman Britain, whereas in the section dealing with the period since 1789 only very limited reference is made to general works and most of the entries deal specifically with Wales. This unevenness of treatment is not entirely happy since it results in substantial omissions. Charles Hadfield, *British Canals* (1953) and T. S. Willan, *English Coasting Trade 1600-1750* (1938) and *River Navigation in England 1600-1750* (1936) are all

books dealing with developments in Wales in a larger context which do not find a place in this new bibliography.

For the student of agricultural history, a comparison of the entries in the various sections reveals the nature of the interest in the subject. Unfortunately, the index is not very useful as a subject index—there should have been two indexes of names and of subjects instead of one—and there is no entry under 'agriculture' earlier than the eighteenth century, and the subsequent entries, like those under 'enclosure', are purely random items. A search through the entries is therefore necessary. For the period between 1039 and 1500 this shows that almost all the new work done since 1931 has been contributed by one man, Professor Jones Pierce of Aberystwyth. Since almost all these articles have been published in Welsh periodicals, it is most useful to have the references drawn together in one place. Prof. Jones Pierce is largely concerned with the institutional changes, with commutation and the decline of the tribal system, during his period. By contrast the section on land and the landed gentry 1500-1603 shows how much activity there has been in this period since 1931. Of the source entries, 14 out of 16 have appeared since that date and of the secondary works, 11 out of 12 have been published since the first edition. And all these 11 are by different hands, so that here there is no single dominating figure. Interest concentrates on the course of husbandry and on the gentry and not on institutional changes. Since it is often said that the Welsh are a peasant people, it is a pity that the general works which head this section are all concerned with the 'gentry controversy'. It may well be that Mildred Campbell's *The English Yeomen* (1942), Joan Thirsk's *English Peasant Farming* (1957), and W. G. Hoskins's *The Midland Peasant* (1957) would be better guides for further work.

And with 1600 interest in Welsh agriculture appears virtually to end for two centuries. The seventeenth century is a dark age and almost no new work has been done since 1931 on the eighteenth. For the period since 1789

we have the work of Mrs Margaret Davies and Dr Dorothy Sylvester on field patterns, and some work has also been done on rural industries, but the main concern has been with social conditions in the countryside, with Professor David Williams's *The Rebecca Riots* (1955) as the most substantial and distinguished contribution. This analysis makes abundantly clear the fact that much needs to be done before the history of agriculture in Wales can be written as a consecutive story. Thus a subsidiary purpose that a bibliography such as this one serves is to indicate the gaps in our knowledge.

This bibliography reveals the changing nature of historical writing in Wales. In the past the gifted amateur and the eisteddfod essay have made a real contribution, but these days have gone. The recent death of Bob Owen is a symbolic event, marking the end of an era. The new historians are the professionals, the university teachers, whose contributions have grown considerably in recent years. This makes imperative the need for a supplement to this Bibliography to be prepared for publication in the 1960's, to take note not only of the works omitted from the

present edition but also of the considerable body of writing since December 1958.

W. E. MINCHINTON

PATIENCE PENNINGTON, *A Woman Rice Planter*, edited by Cornelius O. Cathey. Oxford University Press, 1961. xxxiv+446 pp., illus. 48s.

The publishers show literary judgement in reprinting this attractive period piece. Patience Pennington, whose real name was Mrs Pringle, was a widow who gallantly attempted to keep the family estates solvent by rice planting in South Carolina. This book records her experiences from 1903 to 1906. The interest of agricultural historians may be lessened by the fact that the Carolina rice industry was then in the last stages of economic decline, a process which no lone woman could halt. But it is as a picture of social conditions among the rural negroes, and of the relations between them and white planters when both could still remember slavery, that the book has historical interest. Besides this, the artless charm of the writing has all the graces of a leisured age, which only such reprints can now recapture.

G. B. MASEFIELD

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