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Annals of a Yorkshire House, from the Papers of a Macaroni and his Kindred. In two volumes. By A. M. W. STIRLING. (London and New York: John Lane Company. 1911. Pp. xviii, 361; viii, 365.)

THE present work is based upon papers left by Ann Spencer Stanhope, including notably the letters and journal of her son, Walter Spencer Stanhope, and other papers of the Spencer and Stanhope families. With this material in hand, John Stanhope prepared, a half century ago, the rough draft of a memoir which was never completed. Mrs. Stirling has taken the Memoir and what is left of the papers and prepared the two volumes now published. The book opens with a chapter on the legend connected with Cannon Hall, which takes us back to the Middle Ages. The four following chapters trace the early history of the families of Spencer and Stanhope to the middle of the eighteenth century; particularly interesting are the chapters dealing with "the old Lawyer", John of Horsforth, and John of Cannon Hall, known always as "Squire Spencer". The rest of the work has as its main theme the man who inherited both properties and effectually united the two families, Walter Spencer Stanhope, "the Macaroni, the youth about town, the member of Parliament during forty years, the friend of so many of the celebrated men of the eighteenth century". Mrs. Stirling is very discursive, however, and Stanhope is rather the excuse for the narrative than its substance. We are hardly presented, indeed, with as vivid a portrait of the shrewd, cool, fastidious, somewhat calculating, yet eminently courageous and independent squire-statesman as we might reasonably expect from the author's able pen. And then we are told rather than convinced that Stanhope's political influence was of a first-rate order: it is difficult to think that the fate of the empire, or even of the Coalition, depended upon his stand on the Yorkshire Address (II. 183).

The book is most valuable, not in presenting us with a life of Stanhope, but in the many excellent pictures it gives us of eighteenth-century political and social life in country and town. In the chapter on the Tyrant of the North, for example, we see the inside of that social and political system which enabled the eccentric Sir James Lowther to dominate Westmoreland County for so many years, the machinery by which he set up and tumbled over his "Nine Pins" being very clearly revealed. Likewise, in chapter xv., there is an excellent account of the campaign in Yorkshire against the Coalition which resulted in the return of Wilberforce for York. There is much in the book for the historian of manners and customs: open hospitality, the spinnet, fancy-work, hunting, and hard drinking in the country, and in the town the social whirl, exclusive clubs, gambling and hard drinking—we do not grow tired of these familiar pictures. The narrative is spiced with well-told anecdotes, old and new, about famous people: Pitt, Fox, Burke, Johnson, and the solemn Michael Angelo ("Law-Chick") Taylor. The incident of

Stanhope braving a mob and depriving it of its legal right of bull-baiting, and the picture of old John of Horsforth laying his cane over the back of every idler he met are especially instructive in correcting the traditional idea of England as the country where every man's liberty was guaranteed by a "rule of law". Though hardly so valuable a work as the author's *Coke of Norfolk*, the book is a welcome addition to the literature of English history; doubtless it might have been shortened to one volume without much loss, but after all a leisurely pace and a dilettante air reflect the spirit of the eighteenth century better than a more business-like tone would have done. The book is excellently made and contains many portraits and illustrations. Grange should certainly read Orange at page 126 of volume II.

CARL BECKER.

The Awakening of Scotland: a History from 1747 to 1797. By WILLIAM LAW MATHIESON. (Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons. 1910. Pp. xiv, 303.)

THE present volume is one of a series of three works by the same author, and those whose expectations have been raised by the reading of the previous two will not, in our opinion, find themselves disappointed when they come to read the third. In taking up the period from 1747 to 1797, the author has fixed upon a section of Scottish history from which the fire and movement of covenanting times are passed away—which has lost the element of romance implied in a "Fifteen" or a "Forty-five". Yet, while the element of romantic adventure has disappeared, it is no uninteresting story that Mr. Mathieson has to tell of what we might call the Scottish Renaissance, when the rise of a literature not unworthy to take rank with the best went hand-in-hand with growing political wisdom, growing freedom and depth of thought, growing material prosperity, and growing enterprise, to start Scotland along the path on which during the last century and a half she has travelled so far. And just as the author in each of his previous works has risen to the greatness of his subject, so in this also he has not fallen short. The chapters on the political development of Scotland are characterized by an intimate and detailed knowledge of the subject, and though in some places one might pass the criticism that it is difficult to see the wood for the trees, yet the mass of facts is traversed by bold and illuminating generalizations, which bring the details into line, and enlivened by flashes of humor which prevent the work from ever turning wearisome.

It would be difficult to praise too highly the chapters on the ecclesiastical history of the period—the sketch of the struggle between the Moderate and Popular parties is exceedingly well done. The author never rises to heights of eloquence, indeed—perhaps a subject of the kind does not readily lend itself to such eloquence—but in this part of the volume his style is so thoroughly clear, his mastery of the facts is so complete, his narrative runs so easily, and his satire is so delightful