

THE CATHOLIC QUESTION IN ENGLISH POLITICS 1820 to 1830, by G. I. T. Machin; *Clarendon Press, Oxford, 35s.*

Dr Machin has provided in this his first book a singularly clear account of the development of Catholic Emancipation in the years between 1820–30 as seen in the elections and in the votes in Parliament. He has made a study of the manuscript material and has made particular use of the Peel Papers in the British Museum and of the Plas Newydd and Kenyon MSS.

The book is carefully thought and reads very smoothly. It is written in a spirit of detachment and with great fairness. The contestants are described as 'pro-catholics' and 'anti-catholics', which makes for exactness. It has always been an irritant to find the supporters of Emancipation described as 'Catholics' whether they were in fact deistic Whigs or Protestant Tories. Dr Machin explains in detail the variations among the 'anti-catholic' grouping and the part played by the royal Dukes of York and Cumberland. Perhaps the most whole-hearted of all the opponents of Emancipation was the Duke of Newcastle, whose intransigent simplicity is described so well in the diary that Mr Gladstone kept on his first visit to Clumber. There is an excellent account of the Catholic influence at the election at Preston in 1826 and a refreshingly detached comment on William Cobbett. The combined opposition to the measure of the great mass of the clergy of the Established Church together with the Wesleyan ministers is well described, as also the effect of this on the voting within Lord Anglesey's sphere of influence in North Wales. The sympathy for Emancipation shown by English Presbyterian

and Congregationalist ministers (but not their flocks) is indicated and also the rather surprising fact that the Baptists acted with them.

The Anglican bishops are seen as a solid phalanx, with the exception of Bishop Bathurst of Norwich, who was for many years the only 'pro-catholic' prelate in the Lords. It is possible that this may have been in part due to the very friendly relations between the bishop and the Jerninghams, who lived at Costessey in the immediate neighbourhood of his cathedral city. This book does not include any special study of the contemporary Catholic community and therefore Creevey's complaints against his parliamentary patrons the Duke of Norfolk and Lord Petre are not alluded to. The influence of Lord Wellesley's second wife is not mentioned, nor that of Lord Arundell of Wardour on his wife's Grenville relations, who were all 'pro-Catholic' except the Marquess of Chandos. It should be said that the sketch of the policy of the Catholics is balanced and accurate, although thin. The interventions of Bishop Milner are carefully set out. The comments on Ireland give a clear impression. The work on behalf of the Catholic cause of the Hely-Hutchinson family is noted. O'Connell's various movements are well brought out. The book production is good. There are two slips in regard to titles. The Marquess of Tavistock is called a viscount (p. 90) and the Earl of Winchilsea a marquess (p. 3). The list of printed secondary works given in the bibliography is not extensive.

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