

REVIEWS.

- 1.—*Roman and Native in North Britain*, edited by I. A. Richmond. 8vo., pp. i-x, 1-174, pls. 1-8, maps 1-8, figs. 1-6. Nelson, 1958. Price 18/-.

This is not the usual type of historical survey of Roman Britain, but is a series of essays by five contributors having for their main object a study of the impact which Roman occupation of this island had upon Scotland. Inevitably there are fissures in the narrative, and even direct contradictions, as where we are told on p. 58 that Corbridge went up in flames in the set-back at the beginning of the second century, and on p. 60 that Corbridge was not involved; but on the whole there is general agreement in conclusions. These are, as Professor Richmond summarizes them, "that, while the cultural side of the relationship was never sufficiently developed to bear fruit, its political side linked Scotland this side of the Mounth with the south in perpetuity".

The book opens with a convincing essay by Professor Stuart Piggott on the extent to which Roman troops, as they advanced northward in Britain, could support themselves off the products of the land. He shows how extensive corn-growing was limited to the south and south-east, how in northern England another type of farming was in vogue, the Brigantes raising their livestock on large cattle ranches; while Scotland was still culturally in the Bronze Age, and any corn that Roman soldiers needed there had to be imported.

Mr. John Clarke, the former rector of Paisley Academy, deals with the Brigantian War, the advance of Cerialis to York, Carlisle, and possibly beyond into Annandale, and

the campaigns of his successor, Agricola. He should have continued his narrative by giving a clearer account of the reconstruction of defences which followed on Agricola's recall and of the subsequent withdrawal to the Tyne-Solway line.

Mr. Gillam and Dr. Steer give fuller treatment of the native problem. The evidence that they have to go on is largely archæological and is largely negative. Mr. Gillam gives a map of second-century Roman finds from non-Roman sites. These are interesting for their distribution, but fail to indicate any Romanization of southern Scotland. Even at Traprain Law, which was probably the capital of the Votadini, standards of living were low. What we are beginning to learn of native settlements in the Cheviots show that there too living improvements were small. Nevertheless Rome was meeting with success in its promotion of peace. There is a growing recognition that the Emperor Caracalla has received less than his due, and that the Severan reorganization had the effect, as Dr. Steer puts it, of "turning the forward area into what was for all intents and purposes a protectorate". The tribal territories of the Damnonii and the Votadini appear to have been formed into client realms, bound in a treaty relationship to the central government and destined to survive as the kingdoms of Strathclyde and of Gododdin, the latter to be eventually replaced by the Anglian kingdom of Bernicia.

Professor Richmond has made the fourth century his own, and all that he writes about it must be read with attention. He draws notice to the fact that the reconstruction of the Wall and its forts after the disaster of 369 broke away from Roman military tradition and may have been the work of tribal levies; and he makes the point that Fullofaudes, the Count of the Saxon Shore, who was killed in the 369 rising, was himself a German. May we not conclude that, if the garrisons of the Saxon Shore forts were themselves Saxon mercenaries, Fullofaudes' position differed little from that occupied by Hengist eighty years later? Professor Richmond

ends with a detailed account of the information that can be derived from the geographer Ptolemy and from the Ravenna Cosmographer regarding the geography of Roman Scotland. He is acute in his criticism of Ptolemy's text, and shows how the misreading of a figure may have led to the river Tyne being placed north of the Firth of Forth. If he is right on p. 139 in correcting the place-name Carbantorigum to Carbantoritum, may one not also emend Corstopitum to Corstoritum, the last two syllables of both names indicating a ford?

EDMUND CRASTER.

2.—*Dunstaffnage Castle and The Stone of Destiny*, by W. Douglas Simpson. 136 pages, 16 plates. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh.

Dr. Douglas Simpson is to be complimented upon another contribution to the *Annals of Scottish History*.

He has done much research, not only on the history of Dunstaffnage Castle, but upon the geology of the Firth of Lorne. His chapter on the pre-history of Dunstaffnage is in itself of great importance. This ancient stronghold of the Campbells, so well known both in history and legend, was built about 1308 by, Dr. Douglas Simpson says, Ewen of Egardia, one of the monarchs of the Scots of Alban during the troubled reigns of Alexander II and Alexander III. Except for a short time in the fifteenth century, when it was held by the Stuarts, Dunstaffnage has always remained in the possession of the Campbells. In early times it was one of a series of towers built to defend the west coast against the Norse invaders.

Dr. Douglas Simpson has made a careful study of the chronicles, and of the history of the castle and its gradual development through the centuries of its habitation. He

points out clearly the various divergencies of opinion in ancient and modern histories.

In the last chapter on The Stone of Destiny, he has brought to light all the legends, tales and conjectures that surround this famous stone. It is difficult to be certain of its origin, but this chapter is of great value and is a delight to read.

Dr. Douglas Simpson writes not in an aura of "celtic twilight" but as one who sees the past as if it had been but yesterday. To all readers of Scottish History, and to all interested in the story of Dunstaffnage Castle and The Stone of Destiny, this is a book which will be a source of great pleasure.

W. RYLE ELLIOT.