THE

WESTMINSTER REVIEW.

No. CLXXXIII.

FOR JANUARY, 1870.
Romans Commonwealth," has no doubt, but of whose self-regarding views and unscrupulous despotism, he is equally convinced. The period of Caesar's career, comprised in the third volume of this valuable work, dates from his appointment to the pretorship of the great dictator, a.c. 62, to his consulship, a.c. 59. Among the questions that Mr. Long discusses is the merit or demerit of Caesar's Agrarian Law, which he condemns utterly, regarding it as an mere device for winning popularity, and as a mistake in political and social economy. If Mr. Long's discussion challenges cross-examination, in its turn, the fact that he has discussed the proposed measure, is fairly creditable to him. It is characteristic indeed of Mr. Long's historical spirit, that he always prepares the way for his narrative by a preliminary disquisition if necessary. Thus, in considering the charges against Catiline, he weighs the evidence placed before us by Cicero, whose inconsistency and virulent random invective he exposes, and by Sallust, on whose incapacity for writing history he has some appropriate remarks. The third volume of Mr. Long's work begins with the Mithridatic War, a.c. 78; then follows the story of the Sertorian Insurrection under Spartacus, on which 
the author observes, "there is no record of any man ever contemplating the extinction of slavery, which was devoting Italy, unless it may be that the reforms of the Gracchi were intended indirectly to bring about this result."

In the fourth chapter Mr. Long examines the character of Cicero's orations against Verres, while condemning the conduct of that governor, denounces the misdeemours of the provincial rulers in general, declaring that most Romans viewed the provinces as places in which they might repair their broken fortunes or add to their exorbitant wealth. The war with the pirates and the siege of Jerusalem by Pompeius are among the remaining topics treated in this volume. For a careful revision of the greater part of it, implying a critical investigation of authorities, Mr. Long and his readers are indebted to the Rev. J. H. Backhouse, of Felstead Grammar School, in Essex.

The views of conservative half-and-half theorists of the progressive school, or of narrow-minded but complete theorists of the retrograde school, like two of the writers noticed above, form a curious contrast to the bold speculations of such a man as Mr. Francis Galton.7 In his daring and suggestive inquiry into the laws and consequencs of Hereditary Genius, he carries us away from the private rills and rivulets of ordinary theory into the broad flood of oceanic historical speculation. The volume before us is an elaborated form of some papers published four years ago in Macmillan's Magazine—papers which, says the author, comparatively imperfect as they were, were sufficiently convincing to earn the acceptance of Mr. Darwin. The immediate object of the volume is to show—1. That a man's

most capable constituent of the most capable race of the old world, the people of Attica, two grades higher than ourselves. The Northern English and Lowland Scotch are a fraction superior to our ordinary countrymen; while the mass of men and women in great towns constitute an overworked and degenerate stock.

In a suggestive discussion, Mr. Galton points the moral included in his premises:—"The needs of civilization, communication, and culture, call for more brains and mental stamina than the average of our race possess; that our race is overweighted and oppressed by demands that exceed its powers. The old ancestral tendency to restlessness and intermittence of action is gradually dying out. The leading men do not belong as a rule to the once famous Norman type, but are of a coarser and more robust breed." Reviewing the influences that affect the natural ability of nations, Mr. Galton undertakes to estimate the effect of the average age of marriage on the growth of any section of a nation, and argues, that to improve the breed, our wisest policy would be to retard the average age of marriage among the weak, and accelerate it among the strong. Against Malthusianism, as a present rule of conduct, he protests as encouraging the multiplication of the incompetent, and discouraging that of the race best fitted to invent and conform to a high and generous civilization. Similarly, Mr. Galton condemns the enforcement of celibacy by the Church in the past, as tending to produce ferocious and stupid natures. Whether, in the case of Malthusianism, the result deprecated by Mr. Galton would be inevitable, and whether the celibate life of the old Church had not compensating or counteracting accompaniments, are questions that might very well be raised. However this may be, Mr. Galton's clear vigorous statement of the argument which he sustains and the course which he advocates, his statistical illustrations, his suggestion of a derivation of mathematical formulæ from the doctrine of Pangenesis, and his general ability and originality of his treatise, make it a worthy contribution to the discussion on Natural Selection, which Mr. Darwin so magnificently inaugurated and so intrepidly continues.

The race whose ultimate deposition Mr. Galton predicts, was in the full enjoyment of its glorious vitality when, eight hundred years ago, in the field of Senlac, the old Teutonic tactics were matched against the arts and valour of the Norman invaders. The story of the conquest is related by Mr. Freeman in the third volume of his book, as it has never been related before. Over great part of this volume indeed there rests an epic splendour, worthy of the arms and of the man whom he sings. The preparation for the invasion, the felling of ships, the muster of the adventurous band, the sail of the fleet with the blazing lantern, the blaring trumpet, the duel ship alone at dawn of day, and the sailor climbing the topmast to see if any of the other vessels were in sight; the march, the Norman and Saxon camps, the messages, the attack, the exploits of William, the hand-to-hand fight at the barricades. The success of Harold when "the shield-wall was still unbroken, and the Dragon of Wessex still dared unconquered over the hill of Senlac," William's strategy—the pretended flight—the fatal pursuit, the close combat, the vertical shower of arrows; and when the bolt from heaven had pierced the king's right eye, the fall of the standard of the "Fighting Man," and the close of the mar- tial tragedy in death, defeat, and loss of empire—all the circumstance, in short, that glorifies or explains the memorable appeal to arms that followed the landing on St. Michael's Eve, is reflected with a truth, a brilliance, and a reality, in Mr. Freeman's narrative, which seems, as by an act of enchantment, to transport us back into the remote past, or to bring that past in visible embodiment before us. The volume itself opens with an account of the sickness and death of Edward, which is succeeded by a narrative of the election and coronation of Harold and the early incidents of his brief reign. The second chapter has as its subject the later reign of William in Normandy, his marriage with Matilda, his wars with France, the conquest of Maine, and Harold's visit at Bouvons, with his share in the war against Brittany, and his oath and homage to William. The thirteenth chapter of the History sets forth all the negotiations of Duke William; the fourteenth describes the Norwegian invasion and the campaign of Stamfordbridge; the fifteenth conducts us through the campaign of Hastings to the fall and burial of Harold, and the sixteenth closes with the interrogation, and consecration of William. In an appendix of rather more than two hundred pages many important topics are discussed in detail, as the authority of Bayeux tapestry, which Mr. Freeman regards as a contemporary work made for Bishop Odo and the church of Bayeux; Edward's bequest; the oath and the election of Harold; William's marriage; the details of the battle of Stamfordbridge, and more than thirty other distinct topics. The three valuable maps illustrating the scene of Harold's victory over the Northmen, the voyage and campaign of William, and the battle of Senlac, must not be forgotten in enumerating the merits of the book. Space will not allow us to enter on a detailed criticism of the history before us; but there are some points, not all necessarily of disagreement, on which we desire to touch. Mr. Freeman holds that Harold, as king by the national will, was a more lawful king than any that over-reigned over England. His true title to the crown was his election by the Witan, and it is undeniable that the chief men of all England are said to have concurred in the choice. Northumberland, however, Mr. Freeman allows, was never fairly represented, and the Northumbrians, though ultimately persuaded into acquiescence, ...