

education, reading and general style of life which he reveals? How does the *Journal* compare with other contemporary accounts of London? Does it add anything to them? Answers to such questions as these would have enabled the reader to understand far better the significance of this new-found document, and widened its appeal. Yet Professor Stevens has done so much so well that such criticism seems ungrateful.

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British Antislavery 1833-1870. By Howard Temperley. Longman, London, 1972, xviii, 292 pp. U.K. price: £3.50.

DR TEMPERLEY'S new book represents some extension and some pruning of a Yale doctoral thesis on the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society. His first two chapters are essentially preliminary. His real concern is with the antislavery movement after the end of the apprenticeship in 1838. One short chapter deals with a less familiar aspect of the subject, the gradual ending of legalized slavery in India and its end, more rapidly, in Ceylon. But the book is in the main a study of British public opinion. After emancipation the centre of interest moved back to the slave trade, this time the trade to foreign countries. By 1888 there were only two maritime nations outside the treaty system Britain had built up against the slave trade — Portugal and the United States. The latter, with its sensitiveness on maritime rights, was the main obstacle to the British Navy's operations against the trade. Fowell Buxton's remedy was to show the Africans a better way by establishing trading posts and model farms in the interior and negotiating treaties with African chiefs. But the disastrous failure of the Niger Expedition of 1841-42 discredited Buxton and his African Civilization Society and left the field free for Joseph Sturge and his Quaker friends who in 1839 had founded the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society. An active campaign led to the formation, up and down the United Kingdom, of about a hundred auxiliaries of the Society; and in 1840 it sponsored a World Antislavery Convention in which not only the ex-slave colonies in the West Indies, Mauritius and Sierra Leone but Canada, the United States, France, Spain, Switzerland and Haiti were represented. The United States delegation split when the Convention decided not to admit women as delegates. W. L. Garrison refused to present his credentials and sat with the women in the gallery.

This was a portent of future trouble, but before discussing it Dr Temperley deals with the abolitionists' attitude towards the sugar colonies and the sugar duties in Britain. 'The sugar colonies' is a convenient phrase but it tends to simplify the problem. The soil, the amount of unoccupied land, the social situation varied from colony to colony and Dr Temperley's treatment hardly takes enough account of these diversities. The treatment of the sugar duties could also with advantage be somewhat fuller, although it does make the important point that this issue ranged the anti-slavery men and the free traders on different sides, since the former were opposed to admitting slave-grown sugar to the British market. This was the issue which brought the Melbourne ministry down in 1841. Peel altered the duties in 1844 to admit foreign free labour sugar on favourable terms and next year

lowered the rate of duty as a concession to the cheap sugar cry. But in 1846 the Whigs came back and provided for the gradual equalization of the sugar duties. Dr Temperley does not mention the tough fight put up by Lord George Bentinck and the Protectionists for the sugar interests in 1848, which secured at least three years delay in equalization. What he does bring out is the diversive effect of the sugar duties question on the movement itself, which culminated in a serious challenge to the London Committee's leadership by the well known abolitionist George Thompson in 1844. Differences also arose on the question of the African Squadron when the economist William Hutt proposed to withdraw the Squadron and 'leave the trade to itself'. Palmerston's measures in 1850 which practically coerced Brazil into putting an end to the trade settled this question, though by methods which the Anti-Slavery Society could not bring itself to approve.

An interesting chapter follows on the interaction between abolitionists in Britain and those in the United States in 1840 and 1850. The two succeeding chapters on anti-slavery issues of the 1850s and 1860s largely revolve round this question also. With the Anglo-American treaty of 1862, which dealt a death blow to the Cuban slave trade, and Lincoln's emancipation proclamation the questions which had been the Society's main concern were settled. Its work was not done; as Dr Temperley explains in an epilogue the question of the slave trade in East Africa was just coming to the front. Maybe he will give us a sequel at a later date; but in the meantime he is to be congratulated on a scholarly new contribution to a much discussed subject. In an appendix he makes some telling points against Dr Eric Williams's book *Capitalism and Slavery*. Two small slips may be noted. Sir John Jeremie was not governor but procureur-general of Mauritius (p. 33 note) and the convention of 1852 with the Transvaal was the Sand (not the Rand) River Convention.

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Sir William MacGregor. By R. B. Joyce. Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1971. xvi, 484 pp. N.Z. price: \$15.00.

THE SUBJECT of this biography was one of the most remarkable of British colonial governors. The son of an 'impoverished Scottish crofter', he worked mainly as an agricultural labourer until he entered the University of Aberdeen at the age of twenty-one. He completed a medical course, partly at Aberdeen and partly at Glasgow, and graduated in 1871. Towards the end of 1872, at the age of twenty-six, he was recommended by one of his professors for a post as Assistant Medical Officer in the Seychelles in response to a request from Sir Arthur Gordon, Governor of Mauritius. This was the beginning of a close association between the Earl's son and the crofter's son, extending over forty years. Both were men of wide and scholarly interests and the correspondence between them is one of Mr Joyce's most important sources. MacGregor found less medical work than he expected in the Seychelles and willingly accepted various administrative duties Gordon assigned to him. He also mastered the Creole French spoken in the islands and learned Swahili to talk to the Africans. When Gordon was appointed