original work itself, supplemented by microfilm reproduction, can satisfy the demands of the serious scholar.

DOUGLAS H. PARKER, Laurentian University


Volume 2 of Viator has a strong medieval bias: out of twenty-two articles, only three touch on the Renaissance. Henry Ansgar Kelly's "The Metamorphoses of the Eden Serpent during the Middle Ages and Renaissance" focuses on the lady-faced Eden serpent of medieval literature, drama, and art and does not brood over the gradual masculinization of this human-headed tempter in the sixteenth century. In "Mehmed II the Conqueror and his Presumed Knowledge of Greek and Latin," Christos G. Patrinelis uses contemporary Greek sources to prove that the Italian humanists who portrayed the fifteenth-century sultan as a philosopher-king fluent in Latin and Greek were wrong: he knew neither. Charles B. Schmitt writes on "Theophrastus in the Middle Ages," confirming that direct knowledge of Theophrastus' works was very limited indeed in the medieval period, and that it was not until the fifteenth century that some of his more important writings were discovered. All three articles have useful bibliographical footnotes. Yet if Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies is to live up to its name, succeeding volumes will have to give the later period fuller - and more adventurous - representation.

ROBERTA FRANK, University of Toronto


This book is the latest contribution to Dr. Elton's chronicling of the revolutionary doings of Thomas Cromwell. It is in fact a series of extremely detailed accounts of cases which illustrate the government's method of securing national obedience to Henry VIII's assumption of the headship of the church, an act involving unprecedented claims on the part of the government and consequently unprecedented problems in enforcement.

Dr. Elton challenges the widespread opinion that the Henrician Reformation was readily accepted by the people as a whole and tyrannically enforced where it was not so accepted. On the contrary, he contends there was widespread opposition, and the government's treatment of it was careful, often lenient, and strictly legal. Open defiance could be put down draconically, but a surprising amount of opposition was allowed to pass with mild rebukes. And Cromwell did not use spies; he did not need to. There were plenty of loyal subjects willing to denounce each other spontaneously. The author traces numberless cases from the first delation to the final disposition where that can be known, and records how gingerly the government had to deal with some cases. The result is a triumphant demonstration of his interpretation. Indeed, the only real fault in the book is the length - there are