present line. The descent of the English honours has been determined by a special Act, but that measure could not convey the Scottish Barony, nor, *a fortiori*, a Princedom of the Roman Empire. Perhaps, however, there may have been some special warrant for the assumption. Lastly, though Mr. Doyle, in accordance with his principles, duly recognises the Earldom of Glamorgan, and dates it (as is the accepted usage) "before April 1, 1644," (though "before" is omitted under WORCESTER), I am somewhat surprised that he accepts the famous Somerset Patent (or rather, strangely enough, a bit of it) of that date, seeing that my own criticisms upon it are, I believe, admitted by antiquaries to have cast it into disrepute.

After all, with such a work as this before one, it seems almost ungracious to have ventured on any criticism whatever. But it will, I trust, have been made clear that such blemishes as I have touched on are but trifling as compared with its striking merits. The remaining portion of Mr. Doyle's undertaking is likely to prove the hardest part, and one must earnestly hope that the present volumes may obtain the recognition they deserve, and that their success may encourage their author to complete his monumental work.

It is only right to congratulate the publishers on the get-up of *The Official Baronage*. Paper and print are alike admirable, and the binding is as suitable as it is handsome. When it is added that these volumes contain, I think, 2378 pages, which means, for the completed work (we may presume) some 4000, the readers of the GENEALOGIST will agree with me in pleading for the "crowning mercy" of such an Index to the whole, when the time comes, as shall be worthy of a Book with which no practical student will henceforth be able to dispense.

J. H. ROUND.

THE EARLIEST PIPE ROLL.

Communicated by SIR HENRY BARKLY.

The date, 31 Henry I (A.D. 1130-31), assigned by Hunter to this remarkable document, accords well with the notices it contains of the family which held the great manor of Berkeley in fee farm previous to its being granted to Robert Fitz-Harding in 1152. In rot. 8 the reckonings at the Exchequer of Sabricht the Canon in the name of Roger Berkeley (II), tend to show that the latter had died during the last six months of the fiscal year, and this is placed beyond doubt by the special return for "Berkeley" on rot. 15, wherein William de Berkeley renders account for the liabilities of his uncle Roger, and engages to pay a fine of a year's rent that he may have the custody of his lands and office.

Now, this William de Berkeley founded the Cistercian Abbey of Kingswood in 1139, and in a letter on the subject to Pope Innocent II, stated that his uncle Roger, having been prevented by death from so doing, directed him to carry out his design (*Vide* Dugdale's *Monasticon*). A nearer approximation to the date of Roger's death may be gathered from what occurs in the Cartulary of St. Peter's, Gloucester, under the head of Shoteshore, which he had restored to the abbey some time before 1130, as the confirmation by Henry I. is addressed to Walter of Gloucester, the Constable, who retired in that year into Lanthony. After Roger's death the monks, to make security doubly sure, got a second confirmation from the same king of Shoteshore "ut Rogerius de Berkely reddidit eis *in vitâ* suâ," and as this is addressed to Milo of Gloucester, the Constable, Walter's son, it was after 1130. That Roger de Berkeley (II) died in the reign of Henry I., is further proved by a charter of Roger de Berkeley (III) to Kingswood Abbey (No. xi in 1146), wherein he gives land for *the soul of his Lord King Henry*, showing that he had done homage for his father's lands to that King.

This places the date of the Pipe Roll beyond all doubt in some year intermediate between 30 and 35 Henry I.