

in every way presentable, and in his early life, at least, lacked neither charm nor understanding nor sympathy. He was sent by Stein to search out manuscripts at Vienna, and his work, and still more his success in personal relations, led Stein to send him in the autumn of 1821 to Rome. Here his tact and charm made still further conquests; he made the acquaintance of Consalvi and Mai and, contrary to all expectation, received the entrée to the Vatican archives. He also won the confidence and affection of the great Niebuhr, then acting as Prussian representative to the Vatican, and was treated by him as a family friend, almost as a son. When, therefore, Stein was faced with the crisis of 1821 and had tried more than one shift, he finally turned to his brilliant young protégé and on 26 August 1823 it was settled that Pertz should become the society's Editor. It was a piece of extraordinary good fortune for the undertaking. Pertz, forty years later, was to suffer an eclipse, and to arouse criticism, opposition, and even hostility, but by then much water had flowed under the bridges, and in 1823 Stein could scarcely have found a better man in Germany to combine the enterprise of youth with solid scholarship and an admirable capacity both for organization and for hard work, together with the determination that could carry him through weather both fair and foul.

Meanwhile Stein had also found his Secretary. Johann Friedrich Böhmer<sup>1</sup> was a young man of exactly the same age as Pertz (1795-1863) but of a very different character and temperament. He was a Frankfurter of the upper bourgeoisie, whose father had held high civic office with conservative traditions from the pre-Napoleonic age; he was earnest, thrifty, retiring and far from expansive in society, but he was loyal, sensitive and romantic of mind. Throughout his life he felt a deep attraction towards the traditions and external manifestations of the Catholic Church, and he had many friends and disciples of that faith, such as Brentano and Janssen, but he never took the step of joining the Church. His influence over a school of historians was considerable, but lies outside our scope. Stein, who had known his family in other years, met him and offered him the post of Secretary. In August 1823 Böhmer met Pertz, and wrote of him as a future Mabillon of

<sup>1</sup> For Böhmer, see the biography, *J. F. Böhmer's Leben, Briefe*, etc., by J. Janssen (1868). Cf. also Ranke, *Abhandlungen und Versuche*, Neue Sammlung, 535-44.