

**A Useful Series.**

Lake English Classics. Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* edited by Professor W. E. Simmonds, Ph. D., Knox College, Galesburg, Ill. Cloth, 45c. The Sir Roger de Coverley Papers edited by H. V. Abbott, A.M., Instructor in Harvard University. 30c. Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* and Lowell's *Vision of Sir Launfal*, Edited by W. V. Moody, A.M., Instructor in the University of Chicago. 25c. A Manual for Teaching English Classics by G. L. Marsh and J. E. Royster, University of Chicago. Scott Foresman and Company, Chicago.

It is one of the encouraging signs of the times that so much attention is given to editing choice selections from English literature for school and college use. Each series has its attractive feature, but for good quality of workmanship, cheapness and suitability to the needs of students special notice is due the series of neat 16mo volumes bound in light blue cloth, known as *Lake Classics*. The volumes are well printed on good paper and substantially bound. The editors being practical teachers as well as specialists have kept the needs of the classroom distinctly in view. The text is edited with scrupulous, scholarly care and so much assistance is given the student as will prompt and guide him to do his own thinking and investigation.

Scott's *Ivanhoe* is furnished with an introduction in two parts; the first being a biography of the author and estimate of his literary work; the second, directions for the study of the novel. There is also a select bibliography, a list of characters, a genealogical table of English Kings from the Conquest and a map of the country of *Ivanhoe*. Necessary explanations of obscure terms or allusions are set as foot-notes, while in the appendix are given Scott's own notes and a list of words annotated by the editor. In this volume the novel is to be studied not simply for the story interest but as an English classic for the acquisition of literary knowledge and culture.

The *De Coverley Papers* are edited on the same plan. Much information, usually given in notes, is here presented in the introduction which includes short, biographical notices of Addison and Steele, with critical estimate of their literary production. There is also a graphic picture of English social life in that day, the habits of different classes of the people, the clubs, coffee-houses, and other social interests, with the literary situation that gave vogue to the *Tatler* and *Spectator*. The student is thus enabled to start the reading of the text with the true perspective and a clear sense of the conditions described in these delightful papers.

The volume containing *The Ancient Mariner* and *Vision of Sir Launfal* is prepared on the same plan but with considerably fuller annotations and suggestions to guide the student to see the beauty and feel the power of these poems. The editor's work is of fine quality.

The *Teacher's Manual for the Study of English Classics* is based on the editions of twenty-five authors in the *Lake Classics Series*. It consists of questions, topics for themes and suggestions for study of a most stimulating character. The volume is prepared for the teacher rather than the pupil and while many of the questions and theme topics may be used directly in the class-room, much is suggestive for the teacher and is intended to be inspiring and directive in the way of personal preparation.

It will be greatly to the advantage of Canadian teachers and pupils to know the original, attractive and helpful qualities of this excellent series.

**Mr. Charlton's Motion and Queen's.**

REV. PROF. ROSS, D. D., OF MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE ON THIS SUBJECT.

"I do not think it will ever receive consideration by the committee," said Rev. Prof. Ross last night in discussing the motion of Mr. J. Charlton, M. P., before the Presbyterian General Assembly in favor of setting up two Presbyterian universities for Canada. "The motion is inferior in importance, and only secondary to the Queen's question, and when Mr. Charlton introduced it last year in the assembly it did not even receive a seconder."

"There is first of all in connection with this the great question of transference of property. No one will think that, for example, the Montreal College is going to move its professors and staff to the centre in which the eastern college may be established, and in regard to the other colleges the same argument may be used. Mr. Charlton's motion, to say the least is utterly inefficient, when we look at the conditions existing. However, the crux of the whole question will be the decision in regard to the Queen's. If Queen's passes from the control of the Presbyterian Church it is impossible for me to say what may take place."

"Under the present circumstances, however, Queen's University will do far better to remain under the control of the Presbyterian Church, and this will probably be the result when the committee in charge reports to the assembly next year."

**Question is Complex.**

"Of course, said he, the matter is a very complicated one and one which will require a great amount of consideration before any conclusion can be arrived at. When Principal Grant first brought this matter of separation before the assembly some years ago, what influenced him was the question of finance, and he did not see any way of raising funds except by the Government's aid. Things have greatly changed at the present time, however. There is no doubt at all but that Principal Grant, when he brought this question before the assembly, had received pledges of some kind from the Ontario Government."

"This is a conjecture on my part," said Prof. Ross, but I do not think that he would have raised such a weighty question on his own responsibility." Now, however, there is no Principal Grant, no man of his authority and resources to cope with the Government, to pull the strings, so to speak, and gain their pecuniary aid.

"If under the present circumstances Queen's University becomes separated from the Presbyterian Church, it will in a short time find itself in such financial embarrassment as is like to cause its downfall. Moreover, the Ontario Government at the present time has a very strong opposition facing it, which would be very liable to oppose vigorously any resolution brought forward in regard to Queen's."

"True," he said, "the trustees of Queen's are eager for separation from the Church. They, however, do not clearly recognize the truth of the facts I have presented, nor do they recognize the immense authority Grant had with the Government. The thing which is the chief factor in moving the trustees is that they consider that they have already accepted so much from the Government and from the city of Kingston that they are in honor bound to place the university under their control."

"The trustees are labouring under a sad delusion, however. True the Ontario government did donate something like \$125,000

for the foundation of a mining school; but this, however, they must remember is governed by a separate board and is only, so to speak, under the protection of Queen's. The city of Kingston gave something like \$50,000 to the same cause. It is these two things which cause the trustees to think that they must entirely capitulate, and bring the college under Government control."

**Professors Attitude.**

Another thing which is urging on the separation is the fact that many of the professors occupying chairs at Queen's are not Presbyterians. Some are Methodists, some Anglicans, and there are a few Catholics. All these are in favor of separation. Of course, the professors have very little to say in the matter, but they, at least, produce a strong feeling.

Of course the relinquishing of Queen's University by the committee appointed by the Assembly, Professor Ross thinks, is an outcome which is perfectly sensible, but when the circumstances are considered, it seems rather impracticable and one which is liable to do considerable harm at Queen's University. If the Presbyterian Church retains Queen's, a fund will be raised to carry on the work in the usual praiseworthy manner. Surely this is a better prospect for the university than anything separation from the Presbyterians could offer.

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