

But we must not forget to describe Miss Dene. Sir Hubert Dene, her father, has taught her many useful things, not usually included in a young lady's education.

'She could not only saddle her horse and ride it, but exchange it for a better at a horse fair.' Now, knowledge of this kind can only be learned by practice, and it is rather too deep a draft upon our fund of credulity for Mr. Hawthorne to wish us to believe that an English baronet would be allowed by society to let his only daughter frequent horse fairs. But this is not all. She was out one day 'pruning' some trees with an 'axe' when a thoughtless bull chased her across a field. To take off her petticoat as she ran (!), toss it on the bull's horns, and 'tumble the huge creature dead at her feet' with a blow of her axe, was only the work of a moment. We thought the conjunction of heroine and a bull was growing stale, but must admit that Mr. Hawthorne has given a flavour of originality to the incident.

The course of true love between two such decided individuals (we do not mean Miss Dene and the bull) could hardly be expected to run smoothly. Mr. Selim Fawley, a rival of Semitic extraction, comes between them, and, aided by some remarkably disgraceful actions of Sebastian, contrives to part the lovers altogether. It would not be fair to disclose the details of the plot, which is a little intricate and not over coherent, but which interests the reader enough to deserve to have its faults passed over. Some incidents and descriptive passages are really effectively written and show signs of considerable power, as the picture of the approach to Dene Hall on a clear English spring morning after rain, when a 'few pale clouds with undefined edges, languished along the eastern quarter of the sky . . . and strips of glassy water filled the wheel ruts.' In character painting too, we meet with some bold touches. Fawley, we are told, was capable of charity, 'but all his gifts would be patterned after the boomerang; however vigorously he might disseminate them, they were certain from their innate and essential quality to return to him with an augmented impetus.' And again, speaking of the unobtrusive but kindhearted little character, Smillett,— 'men of this stamp are use-

ful to fill the gaps left by those superior spirits who consider it sufficient to have an aim, but supererogatory to realize it.'

It must not however be thought that Mr. Julian Hawthorne's work is always at this high level. He often uses words of a curious, not to say debased, coinage. We cannot subscribe to 'the immitigable heavens,' 'the ponderous oarage of slow barges' or 'Junonian glances.' And the author must excuse us for saying that he does not know London society well enough to depict a private club with *vraisemblance*. The 'Mulberry Club' is a most peculiar institution. When we say that it is supposed to have been originally founded by the actors of Shakespere's day, and to have a relic of those times still extant, in the shape of a tankard cut out of the famous mulberry tree, and presented by the poet himself to the society, we have said enough. If Shakespere discounted his future fame during his lifetime, it was hard that he should have to discount his poor mulberry tree as well!

The tale becomes very tragic towards the end. We have been long wanting to get rid of Mr. Fawley, and at last three of the characters enter into a lively competition as to which shall kill him. The murder market being thus overstocked, and the supply of assassins considerably exceeding the demand, Mr. Fawley obligingly forestalls it by falling down dead in a fit, and though he does it in an extremely ungentlemanly way, we are constrained to applaud it as the first unselfish action of his life.

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*Civil Service in Great Britain.* A History of Abuses and Reforms, and their Bearing upon American Politics. By DORMAN B. EATON. New York: Harper & Bros.; Toronto: James Campbell & Son, and Willing & Williamson.

THE Civil Service discussion, now impending at Ottawa, will doubtless send many of our public men to Mr. Eaton's well-ordered magazine of precedents and historical data. The volume traces, in a very graphic manner, the rise, development, decline, and extinction of the 'spoils' system in England; also the gradual evolution of the admirable competitive system which is now being copied in