

The Union of England and Scotland.*

MOST students of English history and politics are fully aware of the importance of the union of the northern and the southern kingdoms under Queen Anne; but few of us have any notion of the manifold attempts which were made before this was accomplished, or of the difficulties which had to be surmounted. The goodly volume before us, written with complete knowledge of the incidents, is not only full of information, but furnishes very pleasant reading.

Our readers are, of course, aware that the kingdoms were united under one ruler (James I., A.D. 1603) for more than a century before the parliaments were united (Anne, A.D. 1707); and few can now doubt that both unions were advantageous to both countries. Many, even of those who, as we think, very unwisely counselled Home Rule for Ireland, like the late Professor Freeman for example, had no thought of recommending a separate parliament for Scotland.

It would probably be offensive to Scotchmen who cherish the memory of the heroic period of Scottish history, to be told that Edward I. had been among the first to perceive the beneficial consequences of a union between the two kingdoms. Yet this must be conceded, even if we regret his methods, and if we sympathize with the Scottish love of independence.

Something of the same view was apparently taken by Henry VII. When some of the Nobility objected to the marriage of the Princess Margaret to James IV., on the ground that it might make England a dependent on Scotland, the first of the Tudor Kings sagaciously remarked that the less would follow the greater; and this was fulfilled when the great grandson of Margaret Tudor, James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England, and London became the capital of the United Kingdom.

James I. immediately perceived the advantages of parliamentary union, and had a commission appointed to arrange the terms and conditions. He very nearly succeeded; and in telling the story of this endeavour, Dr. McKinnon shows us clearly the practical difficulties, in the way. For the most part they consisted in the clashing of interests. Edinburgh had lost her court—a heavy financial loss; and to part with her parliament would involve still further detriment to her commercial interests. To meet these difficulties, privileges had to be conceded to the Northern Kingdom which seemed to be injurious to the Southern. Disputes and animosities arose which were put to rest only by the Act of Union, but which revived even after that event. The story is well told in the volume before us; and two reflections are forced upon us—first, the number of plots and counterplots to which this controversy gave rise, and secondly, the fact that such a story can be made interesting.

For a brief period indeed these oppositions were brushed aside by the strong hand of Cromwell; but the time between Dunbar and the Protector's death was not sufficient to consolidate his policy; and the men of the Restoration had neither his wisdom nor his strength.

The author takes up every incident of interest that bears upon his subject in the subsequent reigns, and comments upon the bloody tragedy of Glencoe in a spirit less favourable to Dutch William than that of Macaulay.

There was a good deal of opposition at the last. It was alleged by the opponents of the measure in the English Parliament that it had been forced through the Scottish Parliament by bribery within, and by violence without doors. It was said that such an Act would put the Church of Scotland on a level with the English Church. Some objected to the precipitancy with which the measure was being carried through. But this kind of thing is always said in such cases; and it was now little heeded. The Bill passed by a majority of 158 in the Commons, and was returned from the Lords without amendment. The writer continues his story through the two rebellions down to the time when the Union became complete.

Recent Fiction.*

IN "A London Legend" Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy has made a great step in advance of his former work. This present production of his pen is both original and interesting and free from the faults of Mr. McCarthy's earlier writings. Candida Knox is a charming heroine, if a somewhat unusual one, as the following description of her boudoir testifies:

"A deep niche by the window was fitted with shelves and filled with books. Swift always looked at books at any time; naturally, now he looked at these with a livelier curiosity. It was not a very large library; it might not have served the turn of a scholar, but for a girl living alone it was a collection of oddly-allied companions. Swift smiled approval upon Goethe and Schiller, upon Richter and Heine. He had learned already that Candida knew German, and knew it better than he, for all his practice in the translation of dreary scholars. The smile faded a little as his glance fell upon a set of volumes of Schopenhauer's writings, but reassured itself as he caught sight of Fitzgerald's translation of Omar Khayyam. As his gaze travelled from shelf to shelf, the expression of his face varied a good deal—varied in shades of surprise, for the collection was mixed, bewilderingly mixed. 'Grimm's Fairy Tales' came next to 'La Cousine Bette'; a row of Ibsen's plays in German flanked several volumes of the Elizabethan dramatists; Carlyle's 'French Revolution' followed the 'Saga of Grettir the Strong'; 'The Origin of Species' ranged with 'Virginius Puerisque' and 'Memories and Portraits'; Hans Andersen's stories shouldered a row of Labiche's plays, Pater's 'Renaissance' stood next to Lane's 'Arabian Nights'; and Symonds' two volumes on 'The Greek Poets' shouldered 'La Reine Margot,' 'La Dame de Montsoreau,' and 'Les Quarante-Cinq.'

"It certainly was a curious collection. He had been prepared to find, as he did find, Tennyson and Shakespeare Matthew Arnold and Molière, Dante, and even Petrarch: Don Quixote—though the fact that this was in Shelton's translation did a little astonish him—and Scott, Wordsworth and Shelley, Keats and Byron. He was less prepared to find, as he did find, Ronsard and Clement Marot, Charles D'Orleans and Villon, Rossetti and Chaucer, Walther von der Vogelweide and the Romanceiro, 'The Song of the Sword' and 'Letters to Dead Authors,' 'Poems and Ballads,' and 'The Subjection of Women,' some volumes of Herbert Spencer and some volumes of Paul Verlaine, the 'Morte d'Arthur' and 'Les Fleurs du Mal.'

"'What an amazing collection!' he said to himself."

If any young woman among our readers can claim this list of current literature as her own she may have a bril-

* A London Legend. By Justin Huntly McCarthy, author of Doom, Lily Lass, etc. A new edition. London: Chatto and Windus. 1896.

A Monk of Fife. A Romance of the days of Jeanne D'Arc Done into English from the manuscript in the Scots College of Ratisbon. By Andrew Lang. London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co. 1896. (Longman's Colonial Library.)

A Master Spirit. By Harriet Prescott Spofford. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. 75 cents. The Ivory Series.

The Story of Ulla, and Other Tales. By Edwin Lester Arnold. Author of Phra the Phœnician, etc. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co. 1896.

Stephen, a Soldier of the Cross. By Florence Morse Kingsley. Author of Titus. Toronto: William Briggs. Montreal: Q. C. W. Coates. Halifax, N.S.: S. F. Huestis.

Pirate Gold. By F. J. Stimson. Poston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The Riverside Press. \$1.25. 1896.

Love Affairs of a Worldly Man. By Maibelle Justice. Chicago and New York: F. Tennyson Neely.

Trumpeter Fred. By Captain Charles King, U.S.A. Author of Fort Wayne, An Army Wife, etc. Illustrated. New York and Chicago: F. Tennyson Neely. Toronto: Toronto News Company. 1896.

A Fool of Nature. By Julian Hawthorne. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. \$1.25.

The World is Round. By Louise Mack. London: T. Fisher Unwin. Little Novels. 1896. 6d.

The House. By Eugene Field. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. \$1.25.

Doctor Congalton's Legacy. By Henry Johnston. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. \$1.25.

A Rogue's Daughter. By Adeline Sargeant. Author of A Life Sentence, Sir Antony's Secret, etc. London and Bombay: George Bell & Sons. Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

Probable Sons. By the author of Eric's Good News. London: The Religious Tract Society 56 Paternoster Row, and 65 St. Paul's Churchyard. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

* "The Union of England and Scotland: A Study of International History." By James McKinnon, Ph.D. Price 12s. London: Longmans. 1896.