

—A Right Pleasant and Famous Collection of Histories, &c."

"Merry England" sums in two words the 41^o chapter of John of Trevisa's Translations of Higden's Polychronicon. Here is Skcat's arrangement of the extract (translated) from "a vercefyour."

"Strange men that needeth
That land well oft relieveth ;
When hunger grieveth,
That land all such men feedeth.
That land is good enough ;—
Wonder—much fruit beareth, and corn.
That land is well at ease,
As long as men live in peace.
East and West all land
Knoweth havens right well of England,
Here ships fondes (*approach, seek to come*)
And oft helps many 'londes'
Their meat, their 'money,'
Men have more common, alway,
For here that 'crettes,'
Men will gladly give gifts,
In land and in strand—
Well wide men speak of England,
Land, honey, milk, cheese,
This island shall bear the prize,

As of lands aright, this island hath need of none ;
All lands must seek help, needs, of this alone.

Of liking (*pleasure*) there 'the woon' (*abundance*)

Wonder at might Solomon ;
Riches, that there is in,
Yearn (*for*) would Octavian."

Mr. O'Gorman of White Lake (of set purpose) taking "Merry England" as now commonly understood and joining to it the popular view of "good old times" sends the following :—

"Merry England"—Literally so ; in those good old Elizabethan times, when ruffs and May poles were equally in fashion. When the stalwart yeoman scorned not to strip and wrestle on the village green ; and rustic maidens tripped it merrily to the "sound of the cornet, lute, harp, dulcimer and all kinds of music"—when Little John flourished, and Locksley drew a better bow than Hubert's " grandsire at Hastings." When the virgin queen toyed with Leicester, and Amy Robsart met her death. When gentlemen of proud lineage and scanty purse carried their delicate rapier and playfully plucked each other in revenge for an insolent look. When 'Sdeath, 'Sh'cod and Zounds, were terse emphatics. When the servant was a *villain*, and the rustic a boor. When Buckingham decoyed the Manx beauty ; Fielding wrote "Tom Jones" ; and Richardson, "Pamela," Anytime, ever-so-far

back ; when Caxton's mother was a girl ; Kings believed in witchcraft, and made their *mark*. When their were no public schools, save Eaton and the Blue-coat. When the monks made hay ; and country-clergy's daughters, goose-berry wine. When tea was unknown, and coffee, a royal luxury. Those were emphatically merry times ; and England—"Merry England." But why go on ? Now the march of intellect, the discoveries of science and the growth of commerce have done away with rural simplicity ; made the noble dependent on the serf ; and placed the wealthy and successful cotton-spinner, whose fair daughters are sought in marriage by poor but deserving "younger sons," on a par with the landed gentry.

Now our motto is "chacun pour soi" ; and if we are merry at all, in our high social state, we are to keep such weaknesses to ourselves lest our children see us smile, and thus throw off the feeling of restraint which is made to crush the buoyant spirit ere it burst forth as the parent of contempt. "Merry" now means gay, noisy, &c. Too true—often more noise than mirth. The hollow smile—the sycophantic grin ; anything that now-a-days masks the face, and hides "The petty hate that throbs within," is indicative of mirth. And lastly ; merriness is, alas ! too often, the slim and inadequate veil thrown around an aching heart, to hide its secrets from the prying eyes of a highly-polished, modern society."—CON. O'GORMAN, White Lake.

Ah the ruthlessness of modern historians to have dispelled such "right merry" fancies, telling us that boisterous mirth from overflowing animal spirits on Carnival-days is no sure sign of true and general happiness or even content, that better is an equable current of health than *fever and ague*.

PROBLEMS.

(88). Parse *rap* in "Ned hit Tom a rap."

HENRY GRAY, Sombra.

(89). Required to divide a debt of \$4,000 bearing interest at 10 per cent., payable annually, into four equal annual payments. (Solve by arithmetic.)

LEVI PALMER, Bothwell.

(90). The height of a certain triangle is 4 inches less than the base ; if the base be increased 6 inches and the height lessened as much, the area is diminished by one-eighth. Find the length of the base.

R. SHEPHERD, Strathroy.

(91.) The height of the centre of gravity of two-weights joined by an inextensible string and balancing each other without friction, on a double inclined plane, remains constant for all positions of the weights.

C. A. BARNES, Windsor.