



CHARLEMAGNE.

Few names are more frequently on the lips of students of mediæval history than that of Charlemagne. Yet of all the great rulers, statesmen and warriors of the Middle Ages, there is hardly one of whom we know so little. With romance and legends Charles's career is abundantly associated. Turpin's extraordinary story has made an impression, which those who like to take their history diluted with fiction, find it hard to efface; while Eginhard's "Life" (once virtually inaccessible to common readers, but now to be had for a trifle), is the briefest of compendiums. It was necessary, then, that some scholar should do justice to the subject, by carefully examining what data could be procured in French and German archives, and the Rev. Dr. Mompert was not unfitted by innate gifts and previous studies to undertake the task. His "History of Charles the Great" (he does not approve of the usual name) is a compact octavo volume of nearly 600 pages. He has endeavoured to clear away the incumbrance of legend and fiction that had gathered around the reign of the illustrious emperor, and his work consist largely of material, now presented for the first time in English, and resting almost wholly on the contemporary authority of annals and chronicles, biographies, letters, laws, poems, inscriptions, etc., covering one of the most important and interesting periods in history. The present work, which has been long in preparation and undergone successive revisions, narrates the events from the accession of Charles Martel to the death of Charles the Great. It traces the growth and establishment of the peerless empire of the mighty ruler, whose fierce religious zeal stamped out heathenism, awed the miscreant, enriched and exalted the Church, and whose enlightened liberality inaugurated a new era of civilization, which, after the lapse of a millennium, may still be discerned in living institutions. It also depicts the spirit of the age, as reflected in conquest, government, legislation, literature, religion, commerce, art, agriculture, and the daily life of the people. We hope to have an opportunity later on of indicating, by examples, some of its more striking features. Meanwhile we have no hesitation in commending the book to historical students. In fact, the name of the publishers (Messrs. Appleton, of New York) is a guarantee of its merits.

FOLK-TALES FROM ARGYLLSHIRE.

We have already given our readers a general notion of the aims and work of the Folk-Lore Society. We have just learned from the secretary that it is purposed to hold an International Folk-Lore Congress next year, under the presidency of the distinguished author and scholar, Mr. Andrew Lang. The organizing committee has already been formed, with Mr. G. L. Gomme, F.S.A., as chairman, and Mr. C. G. Leland, author of "Algonquin Legends," as vice-chairman. There are at present folk-lore societies in almost every country in Europe, as well as in the United States, Mexico and South America; and a gathering composed of delegates from the various organizations could not but be fruitful in many ways. We have also received the latest of the society's publications—No. 4.—"Folk and Hero Tales," collected, edited and translated by the Rev. D. McInnes, with Notes by the editor and Alfred Nutt. A portrait of the late J. F. Campbell (Campbell of Islay) adds to the value and interest of the volume. In the Preface, by Lord Archibald Campbell, we learn that when these tales were narrated—"as they were without a hesitation in their recital"—the narrator was in his seventy-fourth year. And Lord Campbell adds: "Like many others possessing fairy-lore, he has passed away within the last few years, and it is probable that before long the land will be ransacked in vain for the legendary folk-lore or for the fairy-lore pure and simple with which it was once teeming." The collection comprises twelve tales, of which the following are the titles: The Son of the King of Erin, Feunn MacCuail Albainn, The Herding of Cruachan, The Kingdom of Green Mountains, The Ship that went to America, Koisha Kayn, or Kian's Leg, Lod the Farmer's Son, The Two Young Gentlemen, The Tale of Young Manus, Son of the King of Lochlann, Leoan Creeach, Son of the King of Erin, and Kaytav, Son of the King of the Cola, and A Battle fought by the Lochlanners in Dun-nac-Snee-achain. These heroic tales all belong to the Fenian or Ossianic Saga—the development of which is traced by Mr. Nutt in an introduction to the Notes. "Existing Fenian tradition," he says, "falls formally into two well-defined classes, according as it is in prose or verse. The slightest examination of the mass of Fenian verse still current or only lately extinct in the Highlands, shows us that we are dealing with a product of partly literary origin, and that we have here in more perfect form. It is otherwise with prose tales. There is community of *Maerchen* between the Gael of Ireland and the Gael of Scotland, as we should naturally expect, and as will be made apparent throughout the course of these notes; but the impression left upon the mind is

not, as is the case with the ballads, that the one set of tales is derived from the other, still less that it is derived from a form that had already assumed a fixed literary shape." The oldest mentions of Finn to which an approximate date can with certainty be assigned, are those of the Irish "antiquaries" of the 10th and 11th centuries—men who made a profession of studying and recording the mythical traditions of their race. Tighernach, who died in 1088, and the contemporary annalists, looked upon Finn as a real historical personage of the 3rd century. Mr. Nutt gives a list of the passages that comprise the oldest form of the Saga. All the early mentions of Finn connect him with the South of Ireland. Summing up, the annotator believes that he may be regarded from three standpoints—the pseudo-historic or annalistic, that of the heroic-saga, and that of the mythic-saga. No great incident of race history enters into the Fenian Saga after the Norse invasion, so that there is reason to believe that its character was substantially fixed before the Norman Conquest. These tales are curious as evidences of the survival of the myth-making faculty even to our own day. We shall have more to say of the society and its work in future issues. Meanwhile we claim for it the favourable attention of Canadian folk-lore students.

RECORDS OF THE SCOTO-ENGLISH BORDER.

We have received, through the courtesy of Messrs. W. Drysdale & Co., an extremely interesting and instructive contribution to border history—"The Historical Families of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars," by C. L. Johnstone. Though the author's own family, that of the famous Annandale Johnstones, occupies a large share of attention, the other leading families of the county are not ignored. The book is illustrated by views of a number of old castles and churches, contains some important early lists of names, and a mass of curious information not to be found elsewhere. It is published by Messrs. Anderson & Son, of Dumfries; Messrs. John Menzies & Co., of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co., of London.

Men and Matters in Ontario.

[From our own correspondent.]

TORONTO, September, 1890.

Sir Daniel Wilson, president of Toronto University, is extremely gratified at the news received last week from Sir Lyon Playfair, to the effect that Her Majesty's Commissioners for the exhibition of 1891 have placed the nomination of one of the scholarships instituted for the promotion of scientific study at the disposal of Toronto University. The annual value of the scholarship, which will be given in 1892, is £150. In all probability similar scholarships will be placed at the disposal of the university every two years thenceforth. The splendid prize cannot fail to bring lively competition into the study of physics, mechanics and chemistry, to which the scholarship is limited.

Mr. Chancellor Boyd's judgment in the case of the Attorney-General of Canada against the Attorney-General of Ontario declares the constitutional competence of the province in reference to the pardoning power and remitting of sentences for offences against the laws of the province or offences over which the legislative authority of the province extends. The legal arguments at the time in this matter created widespread interest, even outside the lines of lawyers and politicians, and the judgment is a feather in Mr. Mowat's silk hat which will be worn with pride. The Opposition in the Legislative Assembly will hear of it again and again during the next session.

The first meeting of the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association has already developed an increased interest in this game in Toronto, at all events. The play on all the days was watched by a fashionable and fairly large crowd. The weather was auspicious, and the spectators were pleased. The play throughout was excellent and attractive. The visitors from Buffalo, N.Y., carried off the honours, but the Toronto club did splendidly before rivals who were not expected to prove quite so formidable. The double championship was won by Messrs. Tanner and Smith, of Buffalo, and the former took away first honours in the singles from Mr. Macklem, of the Toronto club, by 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

The action of the Police Commissioners about the vagrant party bands, which have become a positive danger to the peace of the city, is approved of warmly. The hesitation of the City Council, when urged time and time again after outbreaks had occurred, to pass a by-law to stop party tune-playing on the streets, required this application of the spur to the frightened aldermen. The press had become tired of reasoning, and even abusing. The spirit of Orange and Green was daily becoming more aggressive. It was, however, a shock to all respectable citizens to find that the bad blood had showed itself in the schools, and that a number of lads from the McCaul street public school had besieged and battered St. Patrick's separate school. Four of the young rioters have been brought before the Police Magistrate; but the Police Commissioners, deciding at their last meeting that the deplorable condition of things existing should not continue, sent a sharp message to the aldermen that, if they still refused to pass a by-law, the police powers would have to be stretched to meet the evil. Mayor Clarke is expected to put the aldermen face to face with their duty at the next meeting of the Council.

Dr. C. W. Covernton, who has for years paid much attention to the subject of sewage disposal, has written a letter which is being discussed side by side with the scheme of City Engineer Jennings. From year to year Dr. Covernton has pressed upon public attention the advantages of the electrolytic system. He now seems to have arrived at the conclusion that the solution of the question of the disposal of sewage has been reached. He will make an extended report to the Provincial Board of Health.

Clubmen, and particularly the members of the Reform Club, have warmed themselves in the discussion of the blackballing of Hon. J. W. Longley by the Halifax club.

The final number of the *Bystander* had a rapid sale among people who sought to know Prof. Smith's motive in ceasing its publication.

In every local newspaper throughout the length and breadth of Ontario one reads the most gratifying reports about the crops. The success of the fall fairs that have come off, and the assured success of those yet to be held evidence great agricultural prosperity. It is equally satisfactory to note that Canadian sheep-breeders have swept everything before them at the Detroit International Exhibition. The Toronto Industrial Exhibition, now going on, is admitted on all sides to be the most successful ever held in the history of the association. With increased accommodation in almost all the departments, entries were closed earlier than usual. The Earl of Aberdeen, in his speech at the formal opening, had good grounds for indulging in expressions of admiration for Canadian industry and progress.

A feature of the Toronto exhibition of this year is the art gallery, which has been taken under the control of the Ontario Society of Artists. This department in the past sadly needed to be looked after, and the committee of the O. S. A. have done well. The exhibition shows again the industry and amount of good work which our artists are capable of. The patriotic work of such men as Mr. Bell-Smith is well placed. Mr. J. W. L. Forster's work is all new. A more detailed notice will be given later.

Mr. G. L. Bettman, a violinist, formerly of Portland, Oregon, who has studied seven years in Leipzig, Frankfurt, Dresden and Brussels, will hereafter reside in Toronto.

Carl Zerrahn, with an orchestra of thirty-five men and some star vocalists, will sing with the Philharmonic society in November.

The late rebellion in the Vocal Society, and the establishment by the rebels of the Haslam Vocal Society, from outward appearances seems to have had rather a good effect. The members of either organization would at once grow indignant if it should be insinuated in their presence that their side does not possess the bulk of the old membership. However this may be, and the spirit of jealousy apart, both sides are strong and healthy, and are not suffering, it would seem, from any lack of membership. The two directors, Mr. Elliott Haslam and Mr. W. Edgar Buck, are going along with their rehearsals, and the annual concerts only can decide which party shall win most public favour.

The Philharmonics are working along in harmony, as they always have been. They are now practising weekly. "Elijah," the work on which they are engaged, will need all the choristers they can win to their ranks.

Mr. J. W. L. Forster has sold his much-discussed picture, "The Rival Schools," to Mr. J. Enoch Thompson's gallery.

The circumstances which have come to light in connection with the death of the late Mr. John Kent, school trustee, have been seized upon by the medical profession and by the general public, with the desire that by this case the growth of what is called "Christian Science" in Toronto shall if possible be nipped. Over a year ago a convention of these Christian scientists, from the United States principally, was held in Association Hall. Their meetings were largely attended, and their views came in for considerable pulpit criticism. After their sessions had come to an end, local believers took up the business, and soon the College of Physicians and Surgeons had to take action against a certified practitioner who, in the Medical Court, offered to make some passes above the head of the prosecuting lawyer. Non-professionals, however, were drawing the majority of this class of clients. The late Mr. Kent who, for three years, had been following the recognized legal treatment for diabetes, was induced by a friend to submit himself to Mrs. Stewart, who had attained considerable notoriety as a faith-curer. When he did this he stopped the medical treatment, and in a fortnight diabetic coma supervened and he died. An inquest was ordered, with a view to holding Mrs. Stewart for manslaughter. The coroner, Dr. Johnson, delivered a strong charge to the jury, and, after several hours of deliberation, a verdict of manslaughter was returned.

Solace of the Stars.

Mourner, that, giving all thy thoughts to one,
Dost in his loss consign thee to despair,
Look to the skies forsaken by the sun
And read the consolation written there.

Though glimmering lights can ne'er bring back the day,
Yet stars of twilight soon less dimly burn;
Singly and slowly fade their fires away;
And late stars linger till the day's return.

F. B. C.