

planation or not I have never been able to discover, but it is certain that it was not again seen for over a century.

"Of all those good men who devoted their lives to the recovery of lost manuscripts, Poggio, the Florentine, is perhaps, as you are aware, my friend, the most distinguished. His energy and zeal were unflagging, and though we often hear him complain that his efforts were unassisted by the great, yet we never find him ceasing to continue his great researches. He it was who was destined to bring this manuscript again to light.

"You will remember, my friend, that history records how Poggio found the work of Quintilian under a heap of rubbish in a decayed coffer in a tower belonging to the Monastery of St. Gallo, and it is indeed true, but there was another discovery made at the same time which has always remained unchronicled. During the search which was the occasion of his finding the work of Quintilian he also discovered a further manuscript hidden away in another part of the same tower, which, although unknown to him, was the great writing of Krasés, the Arabian. How it came to be there I have never been able to learn.

"Poggio, being unacquainted with the Sanskrit in which it was written, employed the services of a learned Jew in its translation, and afterwards being absorbed in the joy which his great discovery of Quintilian brought with it, he neglected to reclaim the work which would have added so greatly to his fame. It had remained for generations in the family of the Jew, until it had at length descended to Berseus, to whom the good Suger was apprenticed when in Paris.

(To be concluded.)

A BRITISH HERO.

THE following tribute to a brave Englishman, by Mr. J. Herbert Mason, appears in the columns of a city contemporary:

Few occurrences in recent years have awakened more anxious interest throughout the civilized world than the uncertainty as to the fate of the seven hundred and twenty odd human beings who were on board the steamer *Danmark* when she became disabled in mid-ocean early in last month, and, full of noble deeds as are the annals of British seamanship, few of them are more worthy of commemoration than the action of the kind-hearted captain and crew of the steamer *Missouri*, to whose skill and bravery these hundreds of men, women, and children owe their lives.

Having been in Philadelphia when the *Missouri* arrived, and witnessing the enthusiasm which prevailed there, I have been somewhat surprised to see so little notice taken of the occurrence by the Canadian press. Though not an eye-witness, I know that thousands of people lined the docks and wharves to see the steamer arrive; and as the noble ship approached the pier, her decks crowded with the rescued passengers of the *Danmark*, the loud and prolonged cheers, the sonorous sounds from scores of steam whistles, and the waving of handkerchiefs and hats, produced a scene of joyous excitement seldom equalled.

Honours of all descriptions were poured upon brave Captain Hamilton Murrell, who is described as a tall, broad-shouldered, rosy-faced Englishman about 29 years of age, and who bore his honours with a simple, unassuming modesty which enhances if possible the merit of his disinterested actions. Overwhelmed with congratulations he exclaimed, "I do not know why I have been thus treated. I have merely done my duty; I only did what any other Englishman would have done."

"April 5th, 1.20 p.m., lat. 46, 10 N., long. 38, 36 W., observed Danish steamer *Danmark* flying distress signals, bore down to her and found she had broken her tail end shaft and wished to be towed to port; and that she had 665 passengers on board from Copenhagen. At 3.20 p.m., although blowing hard from W.S.W., got a tow rope on board and proceeded ahead slow to turn her head to sea 4.30 p.m., half speed; towed her all night heading to N.W., in direction of St. John's, Newfoundland. . . . carried away our wire bridle and bent windlass end and started forward bits.

"April 6th, 5.30 p.m., seeing ice to windward and every appearance of bad weather, decided to go to St. Michael's, Azores. Hoisted signals to that effect, to which *Danmark* agreed. At 7.20 they hoisted up 'Leaking considerably, three feet water in after hold.' I asked what they wished me to do? and they replied: 'Keep on towing.' At 9.20 a.m. they hoisted 'Must abandon ship, will send a boat.' I cut the tow rope and backed down, when the chief officer came on board and said it was impossible to keep water out, and the weather being finer they had decided to abandon her if I would take them. I assented and lowered my lifeboat, and with their boat the work of transporting commenced, women and children first, men afterwards and the crew, but I would take no baggage; the heavy swell making the work of great difficulty, but by 4.30 p.m. the last boat had come, and the weather coming on thick and bad we had to hurry up and leave her, so the captain came too. We had on board 665 passengers and 69 crew, making 735 people and not a single accident.

"Some further details state that as they had only three days' food, they decided to go to St. Michael's, 750 miles distant. They used sails and awnings and everything they could 'to make the poor people comfortable.' As it was beginning to 'blow hard' they decided, in the crowded

state of the ship, to throw some of the cargo overboard. Fine weather from Sunday, 7th, till they landed."

(Signed) H. MURRELL, Master,
THOS. F. GATES, Mate.

In the above few simple statements taken from the official log of the *Missouri* is contained a narrative that will be treasured by posterity. It is the record of the actions of a hero and his crew; it records the rescue of over seven hundred lives from a watery grave by means of good judgment, prompt action, and a noble sense of duty towards man.

At a banquet given on the 23rd April in celebration of St. George's day, at which Captain Murrell was an honoured guest, he was most enthusiastically received, the whole assembly jumping to their feet and cheering vociferously. The following poem was recited by its author, Mr. Henry H. Hay, of Girard College:—

"Nothing unusual," Murrell said,
For a modest man is he;
"We found the *Danmark* broken down,
Tossed in the trough of the sea.
She couldn't float, so we took her folk,
Women and children, and crew;
There isn't a skipper," stout Murrell said,
"Who wouldn't have done it too."

"Something heroic," the women said,
Snatched from the shattered wreck,
Tenderly raised from the tossing boats
To the gallant *Missouri's* deck.
"Something heroic," thunder two worlds—
Manly, heroic and true;
True red as the dyes of Britannia's flag
Is the blood of the captain and crew.
Be silent, ye scoffers, who say that proud flag
Is only an emblem of trade,
For here is a captain who sacrificed bales
To shelter man, woman and maid.

The stars of Columbia, the cross of St. George
This day in his honour are awayed;
While England's red ensign commandeth the sea
May Murrells be found 'neath its shade.
May mercy be ever the star of the sea,
May triumphs of pity ne'er cease;
Inscribe on the ensign, "The swiftest in war,
The foremost in mercy and peace."

In replying to the eulogies pronounced upon him, the captain in the course of his remarks said:

"Sailors are not accustomed to speech-making, but I desire to express to you my most heart-felt thanks for the courtesies which I have received at your hands. I do not know why all this should be. It is true the ship was sinking, and we had to jettison our cargo in order to take the passengers on, but any other English sea-captain would have done the same. My officers and crew are deserving of equal praise. The credit is due probably most of all to the maritime school, which trains its men to properly perform their duty."

All honour to Captain Hamilton Murrell and his gallant crew. Such an occurrence, and the consummate seamanship displayed amid that terrific storm in the harbour of Apia by the captain and crew of H.M.S. *Calliope*, are evidence that the spirit which animated British sailors in bygone days still exists, and is ready to manifest itself whenever the occasion calls for it.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY COMPANION. 1889. By J. A. Gemmill. Ottawa: J. Durie and Son.

In discharging the duties of the position of a representative of the people it must often be necessary to turn to some source of information bearing upon the technical terms of Parliament, the respective branches of Government, the names, lives, and addresses of individuals, whether Ministers, Senators, Commoners, or Provincial Representatives, and to have some knowledge of such matters as precedence, title, etc., in a compact and accessible form. All that we have alluded to and much more material of a practical and helpful character on kindred topics may be found in the excellent manual compiled by J. A. Gemmill, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, and published by Messrs. J. Durie and Son, of Ottawa. Apart from its technical value, the biographical sketches of our public men are well worthy of perusal by all who would learn more of the history of their country from the lives of those of our nation builders who still animate the scene.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR BOOK. Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the Civilized World for the year 1889. Edited by J. Scott Keltie, Librarian to the Royal Geographical Society. London and New York: Macmillan and Company.

The twenty-sixth annual publication of this valuable work establishes, beyond question, its right to the title which it bears, and within its one thousand and four pages is stored a vast amount of clear, condensed, and exact information which cannot fail to interest and instruct the reader, be he statesman, or even school-boy. It is an admirable illustration of the advancement and intelligence of our age that for a moderate price any citizen can now obtain such a vast and varied amount of general information respecting the government, religion, finance, arms, population, trade, possessions, etc., of every nation of the civilized world, information that would have been invaluable to statesmen of former days, but for which their time was not ripe. Well may a Canadian look with pardonable pride through the one hundred and sixty or more pages that demonstrate the greatness and glory of the world-girdling empire of which he is a citizen. It is a significant omen of the trend of events that Nos. 2 to 9 of the

succinct and helpful comparative tables are the work of the Imperial Federation League which is slowly, it may be, but surely becoming a prominent factor in the affairs of our empire. The division into two parts—1st. The States of Europe. 2nd. The principal States of America, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and Oceania—is a sensible one. Reference is made easy by a table of contents and an index. The editor, Mr. J. Scott Keltie, Librarian of the Royal Geographical Society, and the publishers, Messrs. Macmillan and Company, have every reason to be gratified with the character and appearance of their work.

THE PRETTY SISTER OF JOSE. By Frances Hodgson Burnett. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

It would be difficult to conceive of any work coming from the pen of the author of "That Lass o' Lowrie's" and "Little Lord Fauntleroy" that would fail to bear the distinctive marks of her genius. "The Pretty Sister of José," though a study in quite a different field from that in which Mrs. Burnett has hitherto worked, has all the characteristics which we are accustomed to look for in this author. It is pre-eminently human, and in the author's hands the human element is always sure of tender and sympathetic treatment. Its literary qualities are those which appertain to a sensitive and cultivated nature. It attracts both by its quiet grace and by its vivid picturesqueness. The scene of the new story is Madrid, and its characters are drawn from peasant life, attracted to the capital by its gay allurements and the field it affords for Spanish love of excitement. "The Pretty Sister of José" is an imperious little maiden, so conscious of her beauty as to affect indifference to her lovers and wilfully to set them at defiance. She seems but a vain and heartless coquette, giving her glances to no man, that she might the better bring all her admirers to her feet. Among the latter is Sebastiano, the popular idol of the Spanish bull ring. To Pepita's beauty Sebastiano falls a victim; but the famous matador fares no better than do other lovers of the pretty sister of José. He in turn is spurned, and he takes himself off in despair. Love, nevertheless, has sped a shaft from the matador's quiver, and in Sebastiano's absence Pepita finds that her heart has received a wound. Time passes, and the maiden hears, with a jealous pride, that her rejected suitor is the hero of a hundred bull-fights and the object of the nation's idolatry. Pepita now longs for Sebastiano's return, and for the place in his heart which she had previously refused to accept. Madrid once more welcomes the great matador, and in the bull-ring the now love-subdued maiden adds to the chorus of acclaim. How this is expressed, and what fate befalls the two lovers, we must leave the reader himself to discover. The closing portion of the story is very tenderly told, and the whole sketch is one to linger in the memory. Mr. C. S. Reinhart's dainty illustrations add much to the romantic qualities of the book.

THE June number of Frank Leslie's *Sunday Magazine* is full of good things. Among the leading articles we may mention "The Roman Catacombs," "Christian Work Among the Esquimaux," "The Reason for Non-Church Going," "Quinine and its Romance," "Samoa and the Troubles There," "A Mountain Vineyard in California," "Some Curiosities of English Dictionaries," "The Jewish Sabbath in England," "Bullcups" and "Miss Maxwell" are two short stories, both completed in this number. Many of the articles are illustrated. The July issue will commence the twenty-fifth volume of this popular periodical.

"CHOICE SACRED SOLOS" is the title of a superb new book of carefully selected and publicly tested songs of a sacred or devotional character. Some of the best modern composers of this class of songs are represented in the book, among whom are Barri, Tosti, Gounod, Costa, Tours, Handel, Abt, Haydn, Blumenthal, Lassen, Helmund, Faure, Parker, St. Saens, Raff, and others. Every solo has accompaniment for the piano or organ. Nothing of a trivial or undignified nature has been admitted into the collection. The book is large, sheet-music size; the music printed with large, clear type; and the general make-up and tone of the book indicates at once its unexceptional character. Just published by Oliver Ditson Company, Boston.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MARK TWAIN is said to be busy on a new book, to be entitled "A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur."

MESSRS. BLACK AND SONS, Edinburgh, have in preparation a new and cheaper edition of the works of De Quincey.

HARPER & BROTHERS publish in May the second volume of Justin McCarthy's "History of the Four Georges."

THE title of Marshall P. Wilder's forthcoming book, to be published by Cassell & Co., is to be "People I've Smiled With."

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS will publish shortly a new book by Amelia B. Edwards, entitled "Untrodden Peaks and Unfrequented Valleys."

THE *American Workman*, a new journal issued by Cassell & Co., has been well received. The first edition of 75,000 copies was quickly exhausted.

THE papers of the late Lord Russell have been placed by Lady Russell in the hands of Mr. Spencer Walpole, whose biography of the statesman is already well under way.