

and witness his return to the platform either to repeat his delicious strains, or simply to bow his acknowledgments, but never have I heard and seen him on these occasions without my thoughts flying back, and this picture springing up before me—Sivori daintily holding my

precious red-painted shilling-fiddle, trying to draw some sort of tone from it with the scratching little bow, and with the fun beaming in his dark eyes, crying, 'Oh, scrape, scrape! What *stoff*! what *stoff*!'

F. J. M.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

TWENTY years ago the herculean labours and studies of Henry Thomas Buckle found vent in the publication of three introductory volumes, bearing the title of the *History of Civilization in England*.^{*} The design of the author was stupendous, his conception was magnificent, and scholars everywhere stood amazed and bewildered at the tremendous mass of material the historian brought to bear on his subject. Had the author been spared to finish his work it would have been the completest and most brilliant thing of its kind ever written, but Buckle died early, leaving behind him this fragment of a work destined itself to be magnificent. Buckle was not a genius, nor a florid word-painter. He was a close student, a scholar who delved deep among the treasures of half-forgotten and almost extinct lore, and a brilliant essayist. He had some faults of style, however, and his reasoning was not always sound, and Macaulay once called him an anticipator whose book perpetually reminded him of the 'Divine Legation,' a work which a critic says 'dazzles while it is unable to convince.' Buckle instructs, but he sometimes

puzzles only; and many of his queries are merely clever paradoxes, couched in an elegant phraseology which deceives the reader at first into a mistaken notion as to the author's real meaning. This much criticism only may we offer about a work which has stood the test of years, and withstood many a vigorous assault on the secrets which it teaches. It continues to hold its own among the scholarly books of the world, and all students still point to it as a marvel of erudition and as a safe guide to historical study. The plan of the author was an exceedingly good one. It embraced a wide range of thought, great skill in the grouping of matter, and powerful analysis of human character and motive. He was not permitted to do more than write the mere introduction to his work, but what he has left us—though called a fragment—is sufficient to enable the reader to grasp the meaning of the author, and learn, to a large degree, the scope and manner of the work which grew in his mind. It does even more than this, for it is complete as far as it goes, and every page exhibits a wealth of learning, research, and examination which must commend it to all thoughtful and studious men. The copy before us is the first Canadian edition of *Buckle's Civilization*

^{*} *History of Civilization in England*, by Henry Thomas Buckle, in three volumes, new edition. Toronto: Rose-Belford Pub. Co.