

Switzerland and Denmark, proves that it can in no way be regarded as history. He thinks it rather one of the numerous household myths, common to the whole stock of Aryan nations, and suggests the probability that some future explorer will bring to light out of the Sanscrit legends an early Indian tale, which will prove to be the foundation of the different perversions. It is true that all of this is not conclusive proof of the incorrectness of the story of Tell; but it will undoubtedly suggest, even to the most conservative mind, some very grave suspicions.

Another story, different from that of Tell, but like it, inspiring emotions of the noblest kind, and awakening some of the best feelings of the heart, is that of the dog Gellert. The incident is familiar to every reader. The noble animal is left to watch a child in its cradle; a wolf enters the house to destroy the infant, but is slain by the hound. When the father returns he sees Gellert's mouth dripping with blood, and hastily concluding that he has killed the child, falls upon him and slays him. Of course, he readily discovers his mistake and is greatly grieved. Gellert's grave is actually shown at Snowdon, in Wales. This touching story Mr. Gould also remorselessly pursues through numerous variations, and traces in Germany, Russia, France, back to Arabia and Persia, and finally to India, quoting as a kindred story that of the Eastern king who had a falcon. One day, while hunting, he filled a goblet with water dropping from a rock. As he was about to drink, the falcon dashed upon the goblet and upset it. He tried again to fill it but with the same result. In his anger he killed the bird, and in a few moments after discovered that the water dropped through the jaws of a poisonous serpent. It was evidently not known in those days that the poison of the serpent might be taken internally without danger.

We began by enquiring of what particular gain it was to truth that these familiar and long received stories were now proved to be incorrect. Perhaps we might go beyond this and ask what is Truth? Did Mr. Gould write the book to which we have been referring? Are his own statements truthful? May not some defender of Tell take the field and prove that our author is entirely wrong? To these enquiries, a story of Sir Walter Raleigh, originally quoted in the *Journal de Paris*, is pertinent:—

Sir Walter Raleigh, in his prison, was composing the second volume of his *History of the World*. Leaning on the sill of his window, he meditated on the duties of the historian to mankind, when suddenly his attention was attracted by a disturbance in the court-yard before his cell. He saw one man strike another whom he supposed by his dress to be an officer; the latter at once drew his sword, and ran the former through the body. The wounded man felled his adversary with a stick, and then sank upon the pavement. At this juncture the guard came up and carried off the officer insensible, and then the corpse of the man who had been run through.

Next day Raleigh was visited by an intimate friend, to whom he related the circumstances of the quarrel and its issue. To his astonishment, his friend unhesitatingly declared that the prisoner had mistaken the whole series of incidents which had passed before his eyes.

The supposed officer was not an officer at all, but the servant of a foreign ambassador; it was he who had dealt the first blow; he had not drawn his sword, but the other had snatched it from his side, and had run *him* through the body before any one could interfere; whereupon, a stranger from among the crowd knocked the murderer down with his stick, and some of the foreigners belonging to the ambassador's retinue carried off the corpse. The friend of Raleigh added that government had ordered the arrest and immediate trial of the murderer, as the man assassinated was one of the principal servants of the Spanish ambassador.

"Excuse me," said Raleigh, "but I cannot have been deceived as you suppose, for I was an eye-witness to the events which took place under my own window, and the man fell there on that spot where you see a paving-stone standing up above the rest."