



SOME years ago there appeared in the Atlantic Monthly a very clever and sympathetic essay on Mangan. The writer was Louise Imogen Guiney, to whose work Dr. O'Hagan gave our readers an introduction recently, and who was then just beginning to be generally known. This essay is to be bettered and reprinted as an introduction to a volume of Mangan's poems selected by Miss Guiney, which will appear in April. The venture promises to at last bring Mangan's merit home to the people of taste who have so long neglected the Irish bard.

In the November number of this magazine the opinion was expressed that the "Galloway Herd" was an old story of Mr. Crockett's, written when he was unknown to fame, and made use of by an enterprising publisher. Mr. Crockett has since made an announcement bearing out this view.

An English publishing house has issued a new series of English works, one of the first of which contains Miss Edgeworth's "Castle Rackrent" and "The Absentee." There is a sort of understanding among persons who pretend to, or who possess, a certain degree of culture in literary matters, that one must have read certain authors before being entitled to express an opinion upon the merits of books

and authors. The name of Maria Edgeworth represents Irish literature to persons of this class. One who knows, or who understands the Irish people will not be convinced that her delineations are quite faithful to an original very difficult to portray, but the student of history who would seek an explanation of the national decay which followed the Union, may find in these pictures of society much that is instructive and worthy of reflection. Non resident landlords who gave no personal attention to their estates suffered them to be eaten up by excessive interest and neglected by tenants driven to desperation by the greedy agents. Nevertheless, considered simply for the interest and excellence of the tales, these two pictures of Irish life, Irish aristocratic life that is to say, are decidedly engrossing. One feels that so far as was possible to a person outside the line within which there is a real understanding of the hearts of the people, Miss Edgeworth recognized the salient features of life in the Ireland of her day.

The Dictionary of National Biography, of which Mr. Leslie Stephen is editor, is doubtless a very important and valuable work. In its compilation an enormous amount of work has been accomplished in order that there may be