

OUR TABLE.

HAROLD, THE LAST OF THE SAXON KINGS;
BY SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON.*

By an arrangement with the Harpers of New York, Mr. M'Coy of this city has been enabled to issue simultaneously with themselves, this anxiously expected work, which was, in consequence, in circulation here only twenty-one days subsequently to its publication in England. The time at our disposal has not sufficed us to read and to review it, but we have seen enough to warrant the assertion that it is worthy the great name of its great author, and that it will take its place in the highest rank of historical romance.

Truly does the author say, that the age itself is full of those elements which should awaken interest, and appeal to the imagination,—and that to “Englishmen in especial, besides the more animated interest in that spirit of adventure, enterprise and improvement, of which the Norman chivalry was the noblest type, there is an interest more touching and deep in those last glimpses of the old Saxon monarchy, which open upon us in the mournful page of our chronicles.”

In pursuing his work, the author has, we think successfully, endeavoured less to “portray mere manners,” than “to show more clearly the motives and policy of the agents in an event the most memorable in Europe; and to convey a definite if general notion of the human beings whose brains schemed and whose hearts beat in that realm of shadows which lies behind the Norman Conquest.”

It is needless to commend a work like this to public favor,—that it is sure to win. There is a world of interest and romance in the period when the Saxon yielded to the Norman rule. And the last of the Saxon Kings, in his noble struggle for independence, does indeed claim “the sympathies of every true son of the land, even if tracing his lineage back to the Norman victor.”

THE HEN-PECKED HUSBAND—BY THE AUTHOR
OF THE HISTORY OF A FLIRT.

A GOOD novel is a treat now-a-days, when the weather furnishes so perfect an excuse for laziness, that no amusement requiring greater exertion than is necessary to keep the eyes open, can be safely undertaken. The Hen-pecked Husband is a good novel, written with great taste and spirit, and full of pleasant humour, and interesting incident. The hero himself, good easy man, is a very fair specimen of his class, and seems, although his chains galled occasionally, to

have borne them for some time with praiseworthy philosophy and patience. He is a man of deep passions, nevertheless, with a keen sense of honor, and when he believes it to be trifled with, and in danger, he is roused to action—too late, however, to avert all the consequences, and the book closes tragically, with the death, after a long separation, of the wife,—and the utter despair of the husband. The tale will take a high rank among the publications of the season, and is one which we can unhesitatingly recommend to general perusal.

A SELECTION FROM THE PSALMS OF DAVID,—
EDITED BY MAJOR TALBOT.

THE members of the Church of England in this Province have long felt the want of a collection of sacred music, suited to the solemn and sublime language used in the services of their church, and although attempts, not altogether unsuccessful, have been made to supply their requirements in this respect, the compositions of the Royal Poet, which are described by the Rev. Dr. Gray, as “serving alike for the indulgence of joy or the soothing of sorrow, chasing away despondency and affliction, and furnishing gladness with the strains of holy and religious rapture,” are too often heard coupled with music, which not only expresses a different sentiment from the words which are sung to it, but is, in itself, of a character wholly unsuited to the worship of God. The compilation before us places in the hands of the devout Churchman a collection of Psalms arranged for each Sunday in the year, set to music which has been principally selected from the immortal works of the old masters, and which breathes the repentance and petitions of the chastened sinner, or in exultant strains blends expressively with the glowing and exalted descriptions of the power, the wisdom and the glory of God, in accordance with the spirit of those portions of the works of the inspired psalmist, which are here appointed to be sung to it.

The work, we perceive, has been edited by Major Talbot, whose persevering and successful exertions in the choral part of the services in Christ's Church are so well known and appreciated among us, and the arrangement of the music has been done by Mr. W. H. Warren, whose distinguished musical taste is perhaps not exceeded in the Province. With such advantages we are sure the public will gladly give the Book before us, that place in the Church and at the Household Altar, of which the care with which it has been compiled, and the talent with which the words and music have been arranged, render it so truly worthy.

* Harold, the Last of the Saxon Kings. By Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., author of Eugene Aram, Rienzi, The Last Days of Pompeii, &c., &c. New York: Harper & Brothers. Montreal: John M'Coy, Great St. James street.