



We have received, through the courtesy of the author, whom we have known by reputation for some years, a copy of "Gentleman Dick o the Greys and Other Poems," by Hereward K. Cockin. (Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson). It is not a very large volume (only 120 pages), but its merit is more ample than its dimensions. That the author has his share of the divine afflatus cannot be disputed. He can be fiery and he can be pathetic, and he is certainly not devoid of humour. We shall give our readers some samples of his diverse moods at an early day. Meanwhile, here are some stanzas from the title poem:

We were chums, Dick and I, in the old college days,
Came to grief on the "Oaks" and enlisted—the Greys.
Ne'er a braver than Dick ever sabre blade drew,
From his plume to his spurs he was leal and true,
And his bright, handsome features and devil care ways
Won the soubriquet, "Gentleman Dick o the Greys."

Then war was declared and Dick's regiment
was ordered to the Crimea, and the end was not delayed:

Down the valley their grey-coated infantry stepped,
In a whirlwind of fury their batteries swept,
But the Greys led the charge in the bright morning light,
With the French on our left and the Sixth on our right;
And, swift as the bolt from the cloud lightning-riven,
The Muscovite flank on the centre was driven.
But, ere we could re-form our grape shattered ranks,
The Vladimir regiment burst on our flanks,
And 'twas hack, cut and slash—little parrying there—
If the Russians were devils what demons we were!
Right nobly our handful disputed the field,
For a Briton can die! tho' he never can yield!

Three Russians beset me; at last I fought free,
Made much of my charger, and turned, God! to see
A Vladimir horseman charge Bulstrode Hayes,
And, 'midst the infuriate yells of the Greys,
Deliver cut six—and Hayes dropped from his horse,
And his curse-writhen lips were the lips of a corpse.

Too late for his life—that had gasped its last breath—
But in time, by the gods! to avenge him in death;
One prick of the spurs in the flanks of the grey
Three bounds, and I held the fierce Russian at bay,
And crash! as their trumpeter sounded "the wheel,"
From his skull to his teeth I had crimsoned the steel.

As the sabre-cleft helmet discovered his face,
As he fell from his charger in death, I had space
For a glance—oh! my God! at those wild staring eyes,
For one look at those features upturned to the skies,
And I reeled in the saddle, my brain all ablaze,
For the dead man was "Gentleman Dick o the Greys."

Old Rugby boys (and we know that there are a few of them in Canada) will thank us (if they have not seen it already) for directing them to "A Brief Handbook to Rugby and its Schools," lately published by George E. Over, 15 High street, Rugby. The spirit of the age has come upon the scene of Dr. Arnold's most noteworthy labours to an extent which would (were he still living) arouse the wonder of even that champion of progress. Rugby School (founded in 1567, by Lawrence Sheriffe, a native of the place), is no longer the only educational attraction of the town. Even in that centre of interest things are no longer what they were a generation ago. The system has been virtually revolutionized (as to admissions and as to course of study) in a democratic and practical direction. There are also preparatory and lower schools and a girls' school, with a gymnasium, to which all who please and pay can have access. There is, of course, full opportunity for recreation—cricket, football, lawn tennis, etc. The history of the town is traced back to the 12th century, and in Domesday Book it is said to be entered as Rocheberie. The first rector was Alexander de Rokeby, whose institution took place in 1253. The old Roman road—Watling street—runs within three miles of Rugby, and the entire district abounds in spots of interest to the antiquarian. A fine view of the school, from a photograph by Speight, forms the frontispiece to the little volume. The "Handbook" may be ordered from the publisher, or through any bookseller.

Now that we have had a chance of seeing and hearing Max O'Rell, we ought to read what he

says about people and institutions with enhanced interest. His new work, "Jonathan and his Continent" (only think!) has been issued in cheap form by a Toronto publisher. He has more to say of Jonathan than he had to say of John Bull, but, though he gave a volume to the subject of John Bull's daughters, he ignores the most promising member of the family, Miss C., altogether. Yet Mr. Blouet was dined by enthusiastic Canadians, both French and English. After all, it is better so. For, to make Miss C. figure as a character in the drama of "Jonathan and his Continent," would be really intolerable. Though much of the book might have been written by one who had never left London or Paris, there are, of course, sparkling passages containing acute comments on American life. We have marked some of these for reproduction.

We thank the gifted and gracious author for her "Housekeeping Trials" (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Company), and shall not forget to give our fair readers the benefit of "Leena's" experience and judgment. Meanwhile, we recommend them, without a moment's delay, to go to that Montreal bookseller who has studied the art of fulfilling orders with decent expedition, and ask for a copy.

In the way of periodical literature we have seen few undertakings that better deserve success than the *Hertfordshire Constitutional Magazine*, edited by Quincey Lane. As the title indicates, it is intended to be devoted primarily to the interests of the important county of Hertfordshire. In conducting it the editor is "personally supported by the four county members." Besides those gentlemen, Viscount Grunston, Baron Denisdale, and Messrs. Abel Smith and T. F. Halsey, it is countenanced by the Marquis of Salisbury, Earl Brownlow, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., Canon Wigram, the Rev. G. H. P. Glossop, Mr. S. G. Foulkes, F. W. Silvester, Dr. John Evans, F.R.S., Miss Preston, and several other persons of standing and influence. It is admirably printed on rich thick paper and is altogether delectable to the sight and touch. As for the contents, though largely (as might be expected) of local interest, that qualification comprises a wide range, not only in time, but in space. As to time, the antiquities of Hertfordshire embrace much that is most noteworthy concerning pre-historic, Celtic, Roman, Saxon and Norman England, having memorials of all those successive periods. As to space, it occupies the centre of the eastern half of England south of a line drawn from Carnarvon Bay to the Wash. It includes the site of the capital of the Catuvelauni, the coins of some of whose kings have been collected by Dr. Evans. Some of the articles relating to Old Landmarks (a specialty) are not only deeply interesting, but they have the seal of authority, being written by persons who have devoted years to the elucidation of their chosen themes. Besides that department there are biographical sketches, stories, poetry, articles on general topics, literary, scientific and social, and, in fact, all the features and characteristics of a high class magazine. Good illustrations still further enhance its value. The *Hertfordshire Constitutional Magazine* is printed at Berkhamsted by the *Post Newspaper Company*.

"Mr. and Mrs. Morton," by the author of "Silken Threads," is an extraordinary story. Whether it is a satire on the taste of the day, or is to be taken seriously, as a novel, supposed to be based on the realities of life, we cannot pretend to know. If it be a satire, it is not wanting in cleverness, but if its leading incident be meant to figure among the possibilities (except on grounds which the author's delicacy prevents him from even hinting at) of civilized society, we can only raise hands of surprise and horror. It has, it seems, reached a sixth edition. The Montreal publisher is Mr. J. Theo. Robinson, and the price, 30 cents.

The participants in a recent ball, in Paris, drank 51,000 glasses of ale, wine and champagne, besides 5,000 bottles of claret and 4,000 cups of iced coffee. There were eaten 14,000 sandwiches, 12,000 buns, etc.

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse has undertaken to write a life of Charles Kingsley for the "Great Writer" series.

The late Dr. Hueffer's new work, "Half a Century of Music in England, 1837-1887," is in the press, and will be issued by Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

Professor A. W. Ward, of Owen's College, Manchester, has written a volume on "The Counter-Reformation" for the series of "Epochs of Church History," edited by Professor Mandel Creighton.

The voluminous "Coke Papers" in the muniment room at Melbourne Hall, Derbyshire, will shortly be completely arranged and analyzed, through the patient labours of Mr. W. L. Fane, the present tenant.

Literary men don't always keep their gifts. Among the volumes presented by Mr. Gladstone to the library of the National Liberal is Cardinal Newman's book on universities. In the fly-leaf is an inscription in the Cardinal's neat regular hand, "From his affectionate J. H. N."

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have in the press a work on the "Principles of Inductive or Empirical Logic," by Dr. Venn, based upon lectures delivered at Cambridge. The general treatment will be somewhat more in accord with that adopted by J. S. Mill than with that of most recent English works on logic.

According to the *Academy*, Mr. P. G. Hamerton has collected his papers on "French and English," which appeared last year in an American magazine, and they will be published shortly in a volume by Messrs. Macmillan. They deal with such subjects as education, patriotism, politics, religion, virtues, customs and society.

An authorized translation of Dr. Geffcken's "Pen Sketches of the British Empire" will shortly be published by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. The work will also contain essays on Prince Albert, Lord Palmerston, Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone. A preface has been written for the English edition by Dr. Geffcken.

Messrs. Swan Sonnenschein & Co. will issue shortly the "The Dead Leman, and other Stories from the French," by Dr. Andrew Lang and Paul Sylvester. The volume contains *nouvelles* by Mérimée, About, Théophile Gautier, Th. Bentzon, Tolstoi, and Balzac, and an introductory essay on the place of novellette in literature by the authors.

The Historical Manuscripts Commission have recently issued the first volume of Mr. Fane's abstracts and transcripts, chiefly dealing with the decade immediately preceding the Commonwealth, when Sir John Coke was "principal secretary" to the King. The second volume may be looked for early in the summer, and the third volume, with index, by the end of the year.

The printing of the revised version of the Malagasy Bible has been completed. It will be remembered that the revision committee, presided over by the Rev. W. E. Cousins, of the London Missionary Society, commenced their work in December, 1873. It has thus taken fifteen years to accomplish the great work, which has now been happily brought to a successful conclusion by the printers, Messrs. Richard Clay & Sons.

Mr. Alexander Gardner will shortly publish "Scotland in 1298," edited by Mr. H. Gough, of the Middle Temple. It will consist of documents relating to the campaign of King Edward I. in that year, and especially to the battle of Falkirk. Among these—the greater part of which have not before been printed—are two copies of the "Roll of Arms of the Commanders" on the English side, and copies of two "Rolls of the Horses," forming a kind of army list.

Captain Pasfield Oliver, F.S.A., is preparing and editing a series of works on Madagascar for the Hakluyt Society. The first volume will contain the personal memoirs of François Cauche, 1638-44, and a translation of De Flacourt's "Relation de ce qui s'est passé en l'Isle Madagascar depuis l'Année 1642 jusques en 1660." Later, Robert Drury's "Journal" will appear, together with M. de Rennefort's narrative and other voyages to the great African island during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

WELSH BIBLE, 1677.—Mr. S. E. Thompson, librarian, Swansea Public Library, writes to say, with reference to Earl Spencer's letter to Lord Aberdare in the *Times* of the 27th inst. upon the interesting discovery just made of a copy of the above Bible in his lordship's library at Althorp, "that the reference library at Swansea contains 27 editions of the Welsh Bible, including that of 1677. The earliest is dated 1588, being the first translation of the entire Bible into Welsh, done by Bishop Morgan; the second, published in 1620, is the corrected or new version by Bishop Parry, and is much the same as that in use at this day. The remaining 25 date from 1677 to 1867. The editions wanted to complete the series of Bibles printed before the year 1800 are the following:—1st 8vo. edition, 1630; 2nd 8vo. edition, 1654; 7th 8vo. edition, 1727—all printed in London; and the 2nd 4to. edition, 1779, printed in Carmarthen. The library also contains a copy of the first translation of the Liturgy in Welsh by Bishop Davies, assisted by William Salesbury, dated 1567. This work is exceedingly rare and valuable. The date of the earliest edition of the Common Prayer Book in Welsh in the British Museum is 1599. There is also a copy of the New Testament, mostly the work of William Salesbury, printed in the same year. Both the latter works are somewhat imperfect."