

and sonnets. How great his loss was, few, apparently, can form a just idea, but some estimate of it may be gained from the lines which he himself translated, as being peculiarly applicable to his case—

Death, of thee do I make my moan,
Who had'st my lady away from me,
Nor wilt assuage thine enmity
Till with her life thou hast mine own ;
For since that hour my strength has flown.
Lo ! what wrong was her life to thee,
Death ?

Two we were, and the heart was one ;
Which now being dead, dead I must be,
Or seem alive as lifelessly
As in the choir the painted stone,

Death !

This affliction, and its overpowering reminiscences, must always be taken into account in estimating his poetry ; but in addition, the warmth of his Italian heart, his love of the quaint, weird, and antique, and, alas ! the dread curse against whose awful power he struggled without avail, all these have stamped their influence on his verses, and must be thrown into the scale along with them before they are pronounced wanting.

The poem that has called forth the greatest amount of hostile criticism and comment is that entitled 'Jenny.' Mr. Caine devotes several pages to a powerful defence of it, in the plea of its humanity, pointing out the evident desire of the poet that it should expose the injustice of the world to fallen sisters, inasmuch as the sin redounds upon the weaker vessel, leaving the stronger unpunished. As a moral lesson, Mr. Caine compares 'Jenny' to the sketch of Hester Prynne in Hawthorne's 'Scarlet Letter,' but perhaps with greater justice, since the object, the portrayal of the heinousness of the unmentionable sin, is the same, he might have referred to Mallock's 'Romance of the Nineteenth Century,' or Swinburne's 'Faustine.' These, though to a superficial reader they may appear in the highest degree immoral, are, in reality, among the most powerful denunciations of vice, and as such are more to be applauded than condemned. They do not belong to that class of works, of which the authors seem

'Skilled to make base seem brave,'

but show forth in their true lights the misery, shame, and despair, attendant on immorality.

If it be possible to particularize especially interesting portions in so interesting a book, attention may be directed to Mr. Caine's criticisms of English poets, and even more to Rossetti's opinions as to the relative standing of English sonnet writers, opinions all the more interesting as coming from one possessing a more than usually intimate knowledge of English sonnets of all periods, and who deserves to be ranked as one of the princes of the sonnet.

—AUDAX.

THE RELIABLE NEWS COMPANY.

On glancing over the list of 'Hotel Arrivals' the other day, my eye fell upon the name of, 'Col. Trewe, of the American Reliable News Company.' Wondering what the 'Reliable News Company' might be, I determined to call on Col. Trewe and find out. Accordingly, three o'clock found me waiting in the office of the Colonel's hotel, having previously sent up my card, to request the honor of an interview. Presently the messenger returned with a card, upon which was written 'Delighted to see you.' The jewel-bedizened clerk, having instructed the ebony call-boy to 'show the gentleman to No. 48,' I followed, and soon found myself in the presence of a robust, pleasant-faced gentleman, of some fifty years, apparently, who extended his hand cordially to me, and introduced himself as 'Col. Trewe, of the American Reliable News Company (Limited).'

I explained that I was engaged in the work of gathering news for one of the large dailies, I was anxious to understand the object and workings of the 'Reliable News Company,' with a view of profiting thereby. The Colonel smiled good naturedly, and said he supposed that I was rather amused by the name of the Company, and looked upon it as 'another ingenious Yankee dodge.' I replied that the strange and somewhat satirical name of the Company he represented, had somewhat piqued my curiosity. The Colonel smiled again, offered me a cigar, lit one himself, and settled himself comfortably in his chair ; while I took

out my note-book and pencil, and awaited the Colonel's pleasure. That gentleman, after taking several good pulls at his fragrant 'Henry Clay,' began :—

"To tell you the truth, the Reliable News Company, of which I am the General Manager and Secretary, has not begun operations yet. We are waiting for a very important event to happen,—some great capitalist to take hold of the concern, and start it. Once started, I have no fear of the ultimate success of the Company. The idea is entirely my own. The name—The Reliable News Company—exactly indicates the object and scope of my proposed organization. The aim will be to give to the public, by means of a system, analogons to Associated Press Despatches, really *reliable* news ; and accurate accounts of the various happenings in different places.

"Now, with us, in the States, and I suppose it is the same in Canada, it is almost impossible for the public to get a really accurate and thoroughly reliable account of any political gathering, any public meeting, any theatrical sensation, or any new enterprise. In the struggle for office, and passion for power and patronage, and, in a great many cases, in the struggle for daily bread, most newspapers are forced, either to conceal the truth altogether, or to garble it so, that the account given is about as reliable as Vennor's Almanac. Isn't that so ?" I was unable to deny the force and truth of his conclusions, so the Colonel resumed :—"Now what our Company proposes to do, is : To employ reporters of our own to get news ; or else, to pay the regular reporters of the daily papers to give us copies of their notes, and let us determine from these reports, the exact truth. Let me illustrate my meaning practically.

"Now, in a town of any size or account in our country, there are sure to be two newspapers,—one Democratic, and the other Republican. Well, as a natural consequence each paper magnifies and praises the doings of its own party, and belittles and satirizes the acts of the opposite party. Now, this being the case, how are the public to get at the truth ? You most naturally say, 'by reading both papers.' Not so fast, my friend. You must remember that neither paper ever tells the truth, even about its own party, and much less about the opposite party ; it is manifestly useless to try and arrive at the truth by simply reading two garbled and untruthful accounts of the same affair, each of which will differ from the other in every particular. Besides, it would be rather too expensive a plan, to compel every man to subscribe for two daily papers in his own town each year, wouldn't it ? No ; the way we propose to go to work is : To employ in our Bureau of Reliable Intelligence, two red-hot, uncompromising Democratic reporters, and the same number of equally red-hot, and uncompromising Republican reporters. For instance, we send them to a political meeting, and when they come back they simply transcribe their notes and send them up-stairs to our Editorial Department, and that's all *they* have to do. Our editors, not the reporters, prepare our despatches, you know." Here Col. Trewe smiled sarcastically. "Well, (and here the Colonel took a piece of paper and a pencil), to illustrate our methods practically :—there are four different reports of this meeting lying before our editor ; all are written by men who have had no communication the one with the other while preparing them. Now, the editor who is writing our despatch, adds up the various figures which the reporters have written down as representing, in their estimation, the number of people present. Let us suppose the first reporter says there were 500 people at the meeting. Down that goes. The second says, only 350. Put that down. The third thinks that only about 200 people were in attendance. Put that down also. The last says, 400. Down with that, too. Now we add these four numbers up, viz : 1450. By taking the average, we find that there were exactly 367½ people present. Then we read over each report carefully, and note down the number of times the words, 'cheers,' 'hear, hear,' 'applause,' 'tremendous and long-continued cheering,' 'sensation,' etc., occur in the various reports, and, by striking our invariable average, we find out the political complexion of the meeting, and thus get at the real truth. We, of course, insist upon our reporters taking down the speeches *verbatim et literatim*, so that we can publish them exactly as they were delivered. Thus we give what the speakers really said, not what the reporters thought, or wished them to say.

Then in regard to dramatic criticism. We never take complimentary or 'dead-head' tickets. If we did, we would have to give uniformly brown-colored reports of the performances,—always laudatory. No ; we send competent reporters, pay their bills yearly at the theatres, and consequently are enabled to give