

For example: "This is the oldest country in the world, the country which has been the longest settled by civilized man" (page 9); "The cradle of our race had been rocked under these stars, here had our childhood been spent" (page 49); "A race from which has sprung a large part, at least, of the great ideas which have swayed the world." We are rather mystified too by the following: "Visions of the successful trades which Jacob had made on these very hills." On page 157, the Oxus is confused with the Jaxartes.

The main thing, however, is that the author forms his judgements with a perfectly open mind. He tells us of the peasantry of his district: "The simplicity and naturalness of their outlook upon life are refreshing, and reveal to you in startling outline the conventionalism in which you have been trained, and whose limitations you have never realized before." With this attitude of mind and with the opportunities he had of close intercourse with the natives, Mr. Fell could not fail to produce an interesting book. A number of photographs are added which give vividness to the narrative. It is perhaps a pity that the sub-title, "Tales of the Kirghiz Steppes," is added, as the book is really a narrative of Mr. Fell's own personal experiences.

S. B. S.

### ARMENIAN LEGENDS AND POEMS.

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The Armenians are among the oldest nations of the world, having retained their land, nationality and language from a time earlier than the period when the Romans first appear on the stage of history. They were already in the occupation of their present abodes about the year 600 B.C., and less than a hundred years later the name of their country appears in the cuneiform inscriptions. They migrated into Armenia from the more western parts of Asia Minor, and ultimately, no doubt, from the Balkan peninsula. Few of the theories about prehistoric movements of races have a better foundation than that which identifies the Armenians with the Paeonians, who in classical times gave their name to the district north of Macedonia.

From the time of Cyrus to that of Alexander the Great the history of the country is wrapped in obscurity, the account in Moses of Khorene being quite untrustworthy. After the defeat of Antiochus, however, in 190, the two princes of Greater Armenia and Western Armenia assume the title of King. These two monarchies were united under Tigranes in the first century B.C., and Armenia became a dominant power in the