

would drive a Saxon or German critic into angry denunciation.

A couple of stanzas will serve to show its peculiar charms :

Here is the shore, and the far wide world's
before me,
And the sea says "Come," but I would
not part from you,
Of gold nor fame would I take for the scent
of larches
That hangs around you in the rain or dew,
Place of my clansmen, place of the old brave
stories,
Good hearts, stout hearts, keen swords and
their manly glories.

* * *

" Oh, here's a cup to my friends and my
darling own place
Glad am I that by fortune my mother she
bore me here ;
It might have been far on the plains of the
Saxon strangers,
With never a hill like Dunchuach or
Duntcorvil near
And never a fir with its tassels to toss in
the wind,
Salt Finne of the wave before and the woody
Creag Dhu behind."

Mr. Alexander Lamont has likewise a most impressive manner. He is essentially an interpreter of Nature. In his "A Lowland Stream" he has caught the music of a gentle rill. The rhythm is as mellifluous as the stream he describes, and he has a felicity of word and phrase that shows him a true poet. If William Canton sang the permanency of art, he impresses the permanency of Nature. It is true he but follows Tennyson in this ; but had Tennyson never written his " Brook," Alexander Lamont might still have sung this splendid lyric. One stanza will well illustrate its beauty :

"Far up, amidst the silent hills,
By lonely, unfrequented ways,
Where unhistoric, nameless rills
Sing through long summer days ;
Round verdant banks by hazels hung,
Then glistening feathery ferns among,
As if in beatific dream,
Fair glide the peaceful, Lowland stream.

At the beginning of this article it was said that the makers of these ballads are serious men. It is necessary to except Robert Ford. He is a Scotch humorist of more than ordinary ability. He handles the dialect of Burns as one to the manner born ; and his " Boucht Wit " has lines quite as good as some of the finest touches of his immortal master.

Others are worthy of mention, and show that the spirit of Burns is not dead in Scotland ; that, despite the yearning of the world for fiction which has turned so many brilliant Scotchmen to romance, there is still

a large band of sturdy singers north of the Tweed.

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One of the most interesting Anthologies of verse that has appeared in this age of Anthologies is "Sonnets on the Sonnet," compiled by the Rev. Matthew Russell, S. J. The key with which Shakespeare unlocked his heart has been more widely used and appreciated than perhaps any other form of verse. Many dear old friends are in this volume, and many new faces, especially foreign ones, appear. The specimens of the various verse forms given in the appendix, and the closing notes on "The Sonnet Principle" will be found of interest to those who are not specialists.

T. G. M.

*" Ballads and Poems." By members of the Glasgow Ballad Club, Edinburgh ; William Blackwood & Sons. "Sonnets on the Sonnet," An Anthology. Compiled by Rev. Matthew Russell, S. J., London ; Longmans, Green & Co., Toronto ; The Copp, Clark Co.

Communications.

A Freshman Objects.

To the Editor of the Journal,—

IN the last issue of the Journal, an editorial appeared, dealing with the subject of "At Homes." After referring in a general way to the great increase of social events, held in the University, particular mention was made of the "At Home" held a short time ago by the members of '02. However just a criticism of "At Homes" in general may be, it certainly seems too bad that one year should have received the whole brunt of the charge. The writer considers that an exception should be made in the case of the final year (of which he is evidently a member) and that a social gathering on their part is "commendable." Granting that this is true ; if an "At Home" is necessary when students are leaving college, is it not even more necessary when they are entering ? The freshmen come to college, in the main, strangers to one another. Should one not become acquainted with the members of his own class, with whom he must associate, day by day, for years ? The Freshmen's reception (so kindly provided by the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. of the college) is appreciated greatly by all the new comers, but its object is essentially different from that of a year At Home. As I understand it, the Freshmen's Reception is, not so much to acquaint the members of the new year with one another, as to acquaint them with the other students of the University. This being the case, it is little wonder that the "stranger" looks about him for some method by which he may meet the members of his own year. It is to be deeply regretted if these year gatherings have been the means of lessening, in any way, the interest taken in functions concerning the whole student body, and if they are to cause estrangement between the different years, certainly they should be discouraged. But, is this the case ? Was not the Conversat. this year one of the most