

Boswell to appreciate, and Goldsmith has got credit for being extremely vain, jealous, and conceited when he did not really deserve it. But after all, we must remember that the defence merely amounts to this, that Goldsmith jocosely pretended to be inordinately vain-glorious and put on airs that were taken *au sérieux* by his graver comrades. Such a peculiar turn of humour, so frequently repeated, although so steadily misunderstood, must, we should think, have had its root in a natural bent of the mind towards these qualities, the outward manifestations of which it served to cloak and disguise. In either view of the case it is one of the least loveable sides of Goldsmith's character.

Mr. Black has done his best to assure those to whom the author of the "Vicar of Wakefield" is dear, that their favourite was not so hardly used by the world as it has been the fashion to picture him.

He fell on his feet pretty luckily throughout his life, and his distresses were generally attributable more to his own reckless mode of living than to any lack of appreciation on the part of the booksellers or the public. It was much of his own accord that he wrote the lucrative but worthless compilations that took up so much of his time, but we need not think him entirely sordid in so doing. It is quite conceivable that he may have expected to gain lasting fame from his histories and "Animated Nature." That such subjects when properly handled *do* bring fame to the poets who, casting aside the muses for a moment, come down to mingle with the crowd of ordinary mortals, may be seen by the instance of Southey, who will probably be remembered by his "Life of Nelson," long after his "Thalaba" shall have been forgotten.

These two lives we have mentioned together as forming companion volumes to each other. In fact several episodes, as for instance the club life in London, are common to both. We can recommend them to the perusal of those readers who cannot go to the fountain-heads for information as to either of these two great men.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH ON THE STUDY OF WORDS. 17th Edition.—ENGLISH, PAST AND PRESENT. 10th Edition. London: Macmillan & Company.

More interesting books than these, and more likely to lead one on to deeper research in philology, could hardly be put into the hands of the student. And yet in very many instances we find the Archbishop astray both in his ideas and his facts. Take for example the very pointed instance that occurs on the second page of the "Study of Words." He is denouncing the saying that "ignorance is the mother of admiration," and throughout his remarks it appears that nothing more than the vulgar modern meaning of the word admiration was present in his mind.

Had he reflected for a moment and remembered that the word really means "wonderment," he would have hesitated before condemning the proverb. Of course, even with this correction, the saying, like all other epigrammatic remarks, only expresses half a truth. The ignorant man wonders superficially at this, that and the other, wonders why the sea has tides and the moon has phases. A little learning extinguishes this faculty of wonder, and the ordinary man ceases to be astonished, for he is perfectly satisfied by a single word, "gravitation" for instance. No doubt on a higher level the wondering mind is again called into play, but this may be said to be on account of the recognition of that ignorance which was not understood by the clown and which was ignored by the empirical observer.

Again we find in a note at page eleven the astounding assertion that the word "frank" is found in English in the sixteenth century, "but scarcely earlier." As part of the compound words "frank-tenement, frank-marriage, franc-almoigne," it occurs over and over again in Littleton (ob. 1491), and was in use long before his time. The view of frank-pledge or court-leet, is an institution as old as Alfred, but we of course do not wish to say that the word itself is quite as old as that. It is enough for our purpose to point it out in the political songs of the reign of Edward II., speaking of prelates who