

THE FUNERAL OF ACHILLES.

The ghosts by Leucæ's rock had gone
Over the ocean streams;
And they had passed on through the gates of the sun,
And the slumberous land of dreams.

II.

And onward thence to the verdant mead,
Flowering with asphodel
Their course was led, where the tribes of the dead,
The shadows of mankind dwell.

A dialogue takes place between the Shade of Agamemnon,—who was foully slain, with the connivance of his wife, after his return from the siege of Troy—and that of Achilles. King Agamemnon thus addresses the ghost of the great Achilles :

XI.

"How blest," then said Atrides' shade,
"Thy lot who fell in war;
God-like Achilles lowly laid,
In Troy, from Argos far.

XII.

"We round thy corse, as slain it lay,
The bravest and the best
Of either hosts the livelong day
In slaughterous combat pressed.

XIII.

"Mid clouds of dust, that o'er the dead,
In whirlwind fierce arose,
On the battle field, all vastly spread,
Did thy vast limbs repose;
The skill forgot, which whilome sped
Thy steed among the foes.

XIV.

"All day we fought, and no one thought
Of holding of the hand;
Till a storm to an end the contest brought,
Sent by high Jove's command.

XV.

"From the field of fight thy corse we bore,
And for the ships we made;
We washed away the stains of gore,
And thy body fair anointed o'er,
Upon its last bed laid.

XXII.

"By day and night for ten days' space—
For ten days' space and seven,
Wept we the man of mortal race,
And the deathless gods of heaven.

XXIII.

"And when the eighteenth morning came,
To the pile thy corse was borne;
And many fat sheep were slain at the flame
And steers of twisted horn.

XXVII.

"In waterless wine and ointment fine,
When the fire had ceased to burn,
We laid those relics prized of thine
All in a golden urn.

XXXI.

"And the Argive spearmen, gathering round,
Upraised a mighty heap,
For thy tomb, a large and lofty mound
Upon a jutting steep.

XXXII.

"Landmark conspicuous there for aye,
By Hellè's waters wide,
For men who may sail on a future day,
As for those of the present tide."

The following are the first two stanzas in the original: "And they came near the streams of the ocean and the Leucadian rock, and they went near the gates of the sun, and the people of dreams; and they came quickly to the meadow of Asphodel, where dwelt the souls, the images of the dead."

We might give many more specimens from Maginn's Homeric Ballads, but the demands on our space compel us to desist for the present. In conclusion, we will lay before our readers one of Pope's most celebrated passages, in order that they may test the fidelity with which he adheres to the original; it is the conclusion of the eighth Book of the *Iliad*:

The troops exulting sat in order round,
And beaming fires illumined all the ground,
As when the moon, refulgent lamp of light,
O'er heaven's clear azure spreads her sacred light;
When not a breath disturbs the deep serene,
And not a cloud o'ercasts the solemn scene;
Around her throne the vivid planets roll,
And stars unnumbered gild the glowing pole;
O'er the dark trees a yellower verdure shed,
And tip with silver every mountain's head;
Then shine the vales, the rocks in prospect rise,
A flood of glory bursts from all the skies:
The conscious swains, rejoicing in the sight,
Eye the blue vault and bless the useful light.

So many flames before proud Ilium blaze,
And lighten glimmering Xanthus with their rays;
The long reflections of the distant fires
Gleam on the walls and tremble on the spires.
A thousand piles the dusky horrors gild,
And shoot a shady lustre o'er the field.
Full fifty guards each flaming pile attend.
Whose unnumbered arms, by fits, thick flashes send,
Loud neigh the coursers o'er their heaps of corn,
And ardent warriors wait the rising morn.

Now the whole of the above stately versification is elaborated and altered from the following words of the original:

"But they, greatly elated, sat all night in the ranks of war, and many fires blazed for them. As when in heaven the stars appear very conspicuous around the lucid moon, when the æther is wont to be without a breeze, and all the pointed rocks and lofty summits and groves appear, but in heaven the immense æther is disclosed, and all the stars are seen, and the shepherd rejoices in his soul. Thus did many fires of the Trojans appear before Ilium, between the ships and the streams of Xanthus. A thousand fires blazed in the plain, and by each sat fifty men, at the light of the blazing fires. But their steeds, eating white barley and oats, standing by the chariots, awaited beautiful throned Aurora."

THE MAGAZINES.

We are indebted to Messrs Dawson Bros. for an instalment of the Magazines for March.

FRASER'S opens with an article on Jamaica: This article has no direct reference to the recent painful events which have directed so much attention to the island, but discusses the general state of society there, and particularly the effect of emancipation on the blacks. Whilst asserting that crime has of late years rapidly increased among the negroes, the whites in many respects are spoken of in little better terms, and the home government are called upon to apply a remedy to this state of things. A paper on Progress in Scotland follows. An article on Clubs is full of amusing reading. The Domesday of Hampshire presents a singular picture of England nearly eight hundred years ago. Sir Edmund Head is a contributor to the present number; he furnishes some translations of Spanish Ballads.

TEMPLE BAR.—One of the principal features of Temple Bar for March is a paper entitled "A Real Casual on Casual Wards, with an Introduction and Notes, by J. C. Parkinson." The writer of the introduction advertised in the *Times* for a real Casual and found one; Mr. P. vouches for the absolute truth of the statements contained in the article. "The Streets of the World," by George A. Sala, and several serial tales are continued. The number is a very good one.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S MAGAZINE.—This magazine comes to us with a perfect wealth of fashion plates. To our eye the extreme beauty of the colouring of several of them is their chief charm, but we doubt not our fair friends would find other and more material beauties in them. The letterpress is generally of a high order; and we notice, as is the case with so many of the English Magazines at the present time, a chapter on explorations among the wretchedly poor who inhabit the back slums of the principal city of the world. A musical supplement is given with the present number. All things considered, we deem this magazine the cheapest and best lady's magazine in existence.

THE PLACE BRITISH AMERICANS HAVE WON IN HISTORY. A lecture delivered in Aylmer, C. E., by Henry J. Morgan, Esq. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

The research which has been necessary to prepare the materials for his forthcoming work on the literature of British North America, has eminently fitted Mr. Morgan to deal with the subject of this lecture. As a people we have scarcely escaped from our swaddling clothes, and we confess we were unprepared to find that these colonies have given birth to so noble an array of men who have won for themselves a name and place in history. Among the goodly band referred to by Mr. Morgan we find numbers who have occupied a more than respectable place in literature and the arts; men who have adorned the Bench in the motherland, have held high

office under the imperial government; stood pre-eminent for courage and devotion on the battle-field, and received some of the highest honours in the power of the sovereign to bestow. One cannot read this lecture without feeling proud of the land of his birth or adoption, and we have to thank the author for bringing together in one group, as it were, the worthies who have shed lustre upon the annals of British North America.

THE ORNITHOLOGY OF CANADA, BY J. M. LEMOINE.

We have much pleasure in commending this volume on "The Birds of Canada." The ornithology of this Province is a subject which is not only unhackneyed, but possesses a great deal of interest. In the work before us, Mr. Lemoine has shown a thorough knowledge of his subject, and has treated it in an instructive as well as a popular manner; and the descriptions of the feathered denizens of our woods are as graphic as they are comprehensive. The public appreciation of the work is evidenced by the large sale it has met with. We believe there are but a few copies of the first edition remaining in the hands of the publisher.

It is always a pleasure to hear the Hon. Mr. McGee speak, and we are glad to announce that he will, on Monday evening next, April 2nd, deliver a lecture in the City Concert Hall, on "Heroic Charity." Mr. McGee has consented to deliver this lecture in behalf of an admirable charitable asylum—the Female Deaf and Dumb Institution, Upper St. Denis Street. Although the inmates of this Institution are unhappily debarred from appreciating the charm of Mr. McGee's eloquence, we trust they may receive substantial benefits from the lecture, in the shape of a large accession to the funds of the Institution. We understand that the St. Ann's Band will be in attendance, and that his Worship the Mayor will occupy the chair. The lecture will commence at eight o'clock.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MESSRS. CASSELL'S subscription list for the English edition of Gustave Doré's famous Bible illustrations has been an extraordinary one. The first impression has been almost entirely absorbed, and the booksellers of London alone put down their names for nearly 30,000 copies.

Mr. GEORGE JESS is about to publish "Researches into the History of the British Dog, from Ancient Laws, Charters, and Historical Records," with original anecdotes and illustrations of the nature and attributes of the dog, from the poets and writers of mediæval and modern times, with twenty whole-page engravings, designed and etched by the author.

The second volume of Professors Owen's "Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Vertebrate Animals," including warm-blooded Vertebrates, with 406 woodcuts, has been published.

THE new volume of the Napoleon Correspondence shows that the Emperor never wavered in his love of books. After a day of no little mental toil and political anxiety at Schonbrunn, he sits quietly down in the evening to write a long letter to his librarian at Paris on several matters of detail, all of which are full of interest to book collectors.

MESSRS. TRUBNER & Co. will shortly publish "The Lost and Perishing Beauties of the English Language," a dictionary of obsolete and extinct words and phrases, or of such as only have a still lingering existence in out-of-the-way places in Great Britain, the colonies, and North America, collected by Dr. Mackay on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE Senate of the University of Cambridge has declined Mr. Yates Thompson's offer to endow a lectureship on American History in that University, shackled as it was with the appointment being in the patronage of American professors.

M. RENAN'S "Vies des Apôtres" is on the eve of publication.