

these books examined, and the names put in alphabetical order for printing in the Historic Volume. At the best, I can only get it done by working night and day, and if the books do not come in promptly I cannot get the work done at all. I have therefore to ask each Minister to see his Local Treasurer and to ascertain whether the book has been sent in. If it has not, then I have to ask that its despatch be hastened. It will greatly relieve my work if, as I have already indicated the columns are added, the balance is struck, and the names of Y.P. Society members who contributed \$2.00, or upwards, and of Sabbath Schoolers who have contributed \$1.00, or upwards, are distinctly marked (x). Some Treasurers have put in the names in alphabetical order, which is a great saving to me, but I do not ask this where the books have been already otherwise prepared.

I am asking Ministers to do this for me, because Local Treasurers may not see Church Papers and so may not understand the urgency of the case. I am asking all the books in now, and if in any cases remittances which are not acknowledged in the Congregational books are sent afterwards, then, if they are accompanied with the names, I will put them in their proper book up to the time that the Historic Volume has to be put in the printer's hands.

Notes by Nemo.*

The Use and Abuse of Wine in Former Days.

Recently in reading the story of The Great Marquess* I was struck by the contrast presented by two passages which occur near to each other in that interesting book.

"On the evening of the day on which the death sentence was passed on Argyle, the Marchioness went down to Holyrood to intercede with the Earl of Middleton for delay at least, to all w time for an appeal to the King in the hope of obtaining a reprieve. She had an interview with him and found him confused with wine, yet quite able to understand the purport of her request. He treated her courteously; but we are told when she came to propose her suit he told her he could not serve her there. "It was," he said, "as much as his life was worth; and would, though he should give it be fruitless, for he had received three instructions of the King which he behooved to accomplish—to rescind the Covenants, to take the Marquess of Argyle's head, and to sheath every man's sword in his brother's breast! For days afterwards, it is said, that he was melancholy and irritated at the thought that in his drunkenness he had blabbed State secrets which had been entrusted to him, and that possibly he was a ruined man."

Not much help did that gentleman gain from wine in the critical hour of his life. Now take the other picture. It brings us near to the last scene in the life of the great Marquess.

"At twelve o'clock he dined with his friends and was quite calm and cheerful; and after dinner, according to his custom, he withdrew and lay down for a short nap. When he returned to the company he again expressed his sense of God's nearness to him, and of the Divine mercy in the forgiveness of his sins. The summons to execution was expected at two

o'clock in the afternoon. Some reference was made to the fact, when the Marquess discovered that the prison clock had been stopped since one, and that the hour of departure was now close at hand. He deprecated the would be kindness which had prompted the action and raved aloud in affecting terms. As soon as he had ended, he received word that the bailiffs who were to conduct him to the place of execution were below and were waiting for him. On this he called for a glass of wine, and according to the quaint Scotch custom which long continued in use, asked a blessing upon it standing, and then said, "Now let us go, God go with us." When he had taken his leave of those in the room who were not to go with him, he said as he went towards the door, probably to one of his advocates, Mr. Mackenzie, that he would not die as a Roman braving death, but as a Christian without being affrighted."

This calmness and courage came not from the wine but from his steadfast faith in God. But surely these two pictures are intensely interesting as showing both the social customs and the moral life of the seventeenth century.

A New Book For The New Year *

This enterprising firm of Scottish publishers open the new year well. This handsome volume, an important contribution to the history of one of the most interesting periods in the commonwealth and church of Scotland, bears the date 1603; and we trust that before the new year becomes old it will have appealed to a large constituency. At present we can only give a brief notice and call attention to the nature and significance of this new historical essay. We hope, however, in the near future to refer more fully to its contents. Such a careful conscientious piece of work does credit to the author; and the style in which the work is presented to the public speaks well for the skill and good taste of the publishers. The ten beautifully finished illustrations add materially to the attractiveness and value of the volume; while the editorial material given in the appendix will be welcomed by the student of history. The body of the work is a clearly written biographical narrative, setting the life and work of a Scottish nobleman, who after a chequered and stormy career ended his days on the scaffold; in one sense a victim of political circumstances, in another a martyr for "the good cause."

In any case there would be a place for such a book, but specially so as there is "no regular biography of Argyle, beyond articles in biographical dictionaries." Surely there ought to be a full, clear biography of such a man, accessible to all who take an interest in the great movements of the past; whether this has been to many of us "a felt want" or no it is a real need. The Covenanters have suffered much at the hands of poets and romancers, and it is well that the impartial historian should vindicate their memory; Mr. Willcock in taking part in this work has rendered real service to his country and church.

The popularity enjoyed by Sheriff Aytoun's *Lays of the Scottish Cavalier* has induced many people to regard him as an authority on historical matters, and to ac-

*THE GREAT MARQUESS. The Life and Times of Archibald, the Earl and 1st (and only) Marquess of Argyle by John Willcock, B.D., author of "Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromartie," etc. Oliphant Anderson and Ferrier, Edinburgh.

Bad Blood.

THE ROOT OF MOST TROUBLES THAT AFFLICT MANKIND.

Bad blood is the mother of fifty diseases. It causes disease wherever your body is weakest. Perhaps you suffer from pimples, pale cheeks, indigestion, neuralgia, rheumatism or general decline. In each case the cause is the same—bad blood. Strike at once at the root of the trouble by renewing and enriching your blood supply with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Every dose helps to give you new, rich, red blood that will carry healing to every part of your body. Among the thousands who have proved the truth of these statements is Mr. Neil H. McDonald, Estmere, N.B., who says:—"I have found Dr. Williams' Pink Pills all that is claimed for them. I was completely run down, my appetite was poor and I suffered much from severe headaches. Doctor's medicine gave me no relief so I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. A few boxes have restored me to good health and made me feel like a new man." Give the pills a fair trial and you will find new health and strength. Don't take a substitute or anything else said to be "just as good." See that the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" is printed on the wrapper around the box. Sold by all druggists or sent by mail, post paid, at 50c a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

cept his defamation of the characters of prominent Covenanters as accurate portraiture. His special gifts and tone of mind, however, find more ample exercise and illustration in dealing with ideal personages like "Ta fahant Fhairsion" than with those like MacCallum Mor, who belong to the actual world of history. In the body of the following work we deal with the view of matters given in the poems called "The Execution of Montrose" and therefore make no further comment upon it here, lest we exhaust the patience of our readers by slaying the slain an unnecessary number of times.

"Sir Walter Scott, in *A Legend of Montrose*, has introduced the Marquess of Argyll as one of his characters, and has delighted multitudes of readers by that brilliant novel. His unwillingness to deliver an open attack upon one so closely connected as Argyll was with the Covenanted movement, and one, moreover, who was regarded by so many as a martyr on its behalf, has led him to somewhat more subtle and effective methods of assault. Thus in his description of the battle of Inverlochy he seems to be labouring with all his might to set down all that can be said in defence of Argyll's procedure, while at the same time by skilful innuendoes he destroys the effect of his exculpation with a finish and completeness that Mrs. Candour might have envied. After reading the compositions of both writers, one is inclined to think that our eminent Covenanter would suffer less damage from being knocked down by Aytoun than from being picked up by Scott." (preface page xxi.)

We commend this volume to the attention of all intelligent readers. Scotchmen in general, and the Campbell clan in particular, should have a special interest in it; but it deals with a large movement that has affected us all; and the tale it tells carries a lesson of abiding value.

*The Great Marquess by John Willcock, B.D. Oliphant Anderson and Ferrier, Edinburgh.