

AFRICAN PYGMIES.

ONE of the abounding follies of the pedant is that of sneering at popular traditions. The philosopher treats them very differently by studying their origin—they must have some sort of origin. They may be fallacious, but they cannot be baseless, and their history is always instructive. In many cases they are records of fact concerning which the pedant is simply ignorant. This was notably the case with the traditions of the fall of meteorites which were treated with such lofty contempt until the beginning of the present century, and may yet prove to be also the case with the sea-serpent. Among such traditions is that of the existence of a race of pygmies in Central Africa, the truth of which has been finally demonstrated by Emin Pasha. The Akkas that he found in the country of the Monbuttu, one of whom he retained as a domestic servant, are true pygmies, as proved by the detailed measurements he sent to Professor Flower, and the skeletons he disinterred and forwarded to the British Museum, and which arrived safely in September, 1887. They are of full grown people, one a man, the other a woman. The height of the female is just four feet, to which should be added half an inch for the thickness of the skin on the soles of the feet and top of the head. The male skeleton is about a quarter of an inch shorter. The height of the full-grown woman, of which Emin states particulars, is barely three feet ten inches. As Professor Flower observes, "one very interesting and almost unexpected result of a careful examination of these skeletons is that they conform in the relative proportions of the head, trunk, and limbs, not to dwarfs, but to full-sized people of other races, and they are therefore strikingly unlike the stumpy, long-bodied, short-limbed, large-headed pygmies so graphically represented fighting with their lances against the cranes on ancient Greek vases." Their skulls are quite unlike the Andamanese and the Bushmen. They are obviously negroes of a special type, to which Haney has given the appropriate name of Negrillo. They occupy various spots across the great African continent, within a few degrees north and south of the equator, extending from the Atlantic coast to near the shores of the Albert Nyanza (30 deg. E. long.), and perhaps even farther to the east, south of the Galla land; there are still surviving, scattered communities of these small negroes, all much resembling each other in size, appearance, and habits, and dwelling mostly apart from their larger neighbours, by whom they are everywhere surrounded. The above particulars are derived from a lecture delivered at the Royal Institution by Professor Flower.—*Hardwick's Science-Gossip*.

SIR WILLIAM E. LOGAN'S LIFE AND WORK.*

It is late in the day to attempt any review of this interesting memoir of one who was worthily charged with the founding, and the practical management, for a long series of years, of the government system of Geological Surveys of Canada, and whose life, in its humble heroism, seemed to be consecrated with rare devotion to the task. The biography though known, we fear, but to the few scientists and immediate friends of the great geologist, should not, however, pass unnoticed; nor should the lesson of the noble life of him who is its subject be unfamiliar to Canadians, or to the honest toiler at his work, whatever be his nationality. Few men other than geologists or mining experts can imagine how great and onerous was the task which Sir Wm. (he was then plain Mr.) Logan undertook, when the government of the old Province of Canada appointed him in 1842, first Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, a department of government work which was then just about to be organized. The work was of the first importance, from an economical point of view, and the field to be opened up was, in Canada at least, as new as it was vast. Born at Montreal, about the close of the last century, Mr. Logan was not only a Canadian, but a Canadian lovingly interested in his country. In 1814 he went to Scotland to complete his education, and from there he went up to London, and we afterwards find him in Wales engaged with a Copper Mining Company and pursuing with great activity his geological explorations, which soon attracted the notice of many eminent British geologists. During his absence from Canada his thoughts often reverted to the colony, and in 1840 we not unnaturally find him again in the country and now thoroughly interested in its study, as an inviting field for the geologist. The coal formations of Canada, landslides on the Maskinongé River, and the phenomena of the packing of ice in the St. Lawrence, were among the subjects of his early investigations; though at this early time his head was full of projects of undertaking some detailed and systematic survey of the geological features of the country. Soon he had the good fortune, as we have stated, to be entrusted by the government of the day with the prosecuting of this survey, and in its work up to the year 1869, when he resigned his trust, his whole life was spent. Such, in outline, are the surface facts of his career; but it would take volumes to detail the incidents of his working life and to give any adequate account of his scientific researches and to estimate their worth. For such a task, were we to attempt it, we have here neither the space to devote to the subject nor the technical knowledge to do it justice. Sir William issued in all about twenty volumes giving a periodic report of progress of the surveys undertaken either by himself or by the staff under him in various parts of Canada. These must be examined to be appreciated; and only a competent and thorough examination can enable one to judge of Sir William's long and herculean labour and of the immense commercial and industrial value his services have been to Canada. Not only did he lay the foundation of scientific research in this country, but he has enriched it with investigations

*"Life of Sir William E. Logan, Kt., F.R.S." First Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. By B. J. Harrington, Ph.D., Professor of Mining in McGill University, Montreal: Dawson Bros.

of the highest value, many of which were prosecuted at his own personal expense. When one considers how small was the annual government grant to the survey over which he so ably presided, one wonders at the extent and magnitude of the result achieved. It shows what devotion and assiduity will accomplish in the course of a life-time; and the remembrance of this should long keep green the memory, in Canadian hearts, of one of the most ardent of Canadian students of science and one of the most noble of Canada's sons. Though we have been late in taking up Dr. Harrington's interesting memoir, we accord him our hearty thanks for the pleasure he has afforded us in making a closer acquaintance with Canada's first and greatest scientist.

G. M. A.

MUSIC.

JUCH-CARRENO.

It will be difficult for any concert company that is now in America to present a more satisfactory concert than that given by Messrs. Suckling and Son, last Friday evening, and it will probably be as difficult to gather as large or as fashionable an audience as that which graced the Pavilion on that occasion. Miss Emma Juch has been a favourite in Toronto since her first appearance, and on Friday she increased the deservedly high opinion in which she is held. When she first sang here, her voice had the delicious creaminess of youth, and it now possesses a glorious maturity of volume, and as a performer Miss Juch has gained experience and power of expression. There was a dramatic intensity in her singing of "Knowest thou the Land" from "Mignon" that has rarely been equalled. The "Jewel Song" is a selection which in its proper home on the stage is surrounded with the glamour of exuberant action and sensuous orchestral accompaniment, and therefore does not lend itself readily to the concert platform. In Miss Juch's hands, however, few felt that any restraint or lack of conventional *entourage* was present, so natural and suggestive was she in expression and delivery, and yet so thoroughly within the bounds recognized as governing a concert appearance. Her rendering of "Annie Laurie" and "The Heather Rose" was equally charming. Miss Hope Glenn quite justified the high expectations formed here from her great successes in England. Her voice is clear, resonant and smooth, and her style is excellent. She possesses a dignity of presence and tone, which does not lend itself readily to lighter music, but she imparted a depth of feeling to the "Three Fishers" which went to the hearts of all her hearers. Mme. Carreno was simply delightful, but then when was she otherwise in Toronto? She played with all the vivacity, depth, elegance and power which have always proved the versatility of her resources. She gave a powerful rendering of the Sixth Liszt Rhapsodie, and played the Campanella with an elasticity and sureness of touch that gave no suggestion of its difficulty. The "Harmonious Blacksmith" she took at a pace that was in itself a proof of her virtuosity, yet still retained the utmost clearness of every note, and a delightful little *intermezzo* of her own was most delicately rendered. Mr. Leopold Lichtenberg was both pleasing and disappointing. Pleasing in his perfect intonation, wonderful double stopping, his honest breadth of tone, and in his generally conscientious interpretation; and disappointing in a certain coldness of expression in his solos and in the *obligato* he played for Miss Juch, to which must be added a lack of power and individuality in the Rubinstein Sonata. His excellences far outweigh his faults, and it is to be hoped that he will soon revisit Toronto. The one drawback to the enjoyment of the concert was lack of proper management, causing the concert to begin at an absurdly late hour, (8.25) and permitting such long intervals between the numbers on the programme, and allowing so many encores.

MR. TORRINGTON'S ORCHESTRA.

To maintain a permanent orchestra in Toronto is an obvious impossibility if it is to be composed of professional musicians, and the only way in which an instrument of such powerful influence for good is to be kept up here is to call in the assistance of the amateurs. Mr. Torrington, whose other name is "energy," has done this, and after many vicissitudes has now an orchestra which, in point of both numerical and artistic excellence, may hold up its head among many more pretentious rivals. Its performances are now excellent, and its repertoire quite extended. Such an organization cannot be kept up without money, and its announcement of a season of three concerts should meet with the support of every music lover in Toronto, in the shape of subscriptions. The first concert takes place on Thursday, Dec. 13, when a number of novelties will be produced, and when Miss Adèle Strauss will sing. The young lady has made a number of important appearances in France and Germany, and created a splendid impression here by her singing at the Archer Recital.

B. NATURAL.

ANDREW LANG writes as follows in the November *Forum* about Robert Browning's poetry: "To the young lover of poetry, who has been frightened away from Mr. Browning by the sybils who shriek and the priests who beat their vain cymbals around him, interpreting his dark meanings, I would say read 'Men and Women.' Read it without puzzling after problems, or grubbing for more than you see on the surface. Read 'Men and Women' as you read 'Adonais,' or 'The Ode to Autumn,' or 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel,' or the 'Ancient Mariner,' just for first plain sense, for the romance, for the delight of the heart and the fancy, for the human beings who move there, and the human emotions. Whoever does this, not being blind and deaf to poetry, will be a life-long and grateful admirer of Mr. Browning."