

regarded by those terrible fellows, the critics, whose *dicta* we all tremblingly obey, yet many will be glad of the opportunity which cheap editions afford to renew or to make the acquaintance of the author of 'Rasselas.' Of course Boswell's is the standard life, and next to that, perhaps, is Mr. Stephen's excellent short biography, but the leisurely reader will find the very cream of Johnsoniana in Mr. Mason's carefully edited *brochure*, entitled 'Samuel Johnson: His Words and his Ways.*' This volume is a conveniently sized store-house of *ana*, *bon-mots*, criticisms and personal descriptions. It is a bright and attractive book, and dependent for its facts on the best authorities within reach of the editor, whose plan is to be commended for its thoroughness. It reveals extensive reading and much critical examination of many books; and though Mr. Mason may say with Montaigne, 'I have gathered a posie of other men's flowers, and nothing but the thread that binds them is mine own,' he is entitled to a large amount of credit for the skilful way in which he has grouped his materials and blocked out his work. Mason's Johnson will beguile many a dull hour, and banish many a fit of the blues, or we are much mistaken. It is formed on a plan which is perhaps original with Mr. Mason, though Russell's 'Book of Authors' may have suggested the idea.

Lady Anne Blunt has written a really enjoyable book of travel. It is fresh and picturesque, and treats of a subject which is full of interest and affords fine scope for the descriptive powers of the author. Eastern travel is full of suggestion, and Lady Blunt has succeeded in presenting a faithful and natural picture of life among the strange Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates.† Her style is good and

spirited, and her hearty love of adventure and romance enables her to put on record, in a certain captivating manner, the impressions which she formed during an exciting journey among the curious peoples of the desert. She is a lover of horses too, and misses no opportunity to speak of the various breeds with which she was frequently brought into contact. Her descriptions of the Arabs and their wonderful steeds, the strange spectacles seen during tent life, the wild luxuriance of the scenery, the habits and customs of the various tribes, life in the Oriental cities as it is to-day, the odd peculiarities of race and religion, and a hundred other things are fascinatingly and dramatically presented.

Lady Anne Blunt embarked on her interesting journey at a most promising time of the year, and when the Bulgarian war was at its height. At an early period she and her small party of tourists made friends with the Bedouins, and this happy circumstance enabled them to see much, to learn much, and to pick up a vast amount of information seldom if ever acquired by travellers through this region of desert wild. They witnessed the confusion of a political crisis, and experienced some idea of the horrors which a bloody war engenders. Their sympathy with the Bedouins enlisted confidence in return, and the utmost friendliness prevailed among the visitors and the tribes they came to see. Few journeys have been made in any country under such favorable auspices, and rarely a people—instinctively suspicious and jealous—have so warmly seconded the movements of European travellers. In her account of life in the greater cities through which part of the journey lay, Lady Blunt has drawn liberally on a large stock of valuable material hitherto inaccessible

* *Samuel Johnson: His Words and his Ways*, Edited by E. T. MASON. New York: Harper & Bros. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

† *Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates*. By Lady ANNE BLUNT, edited, with a preface and some account of

the Arabs and their horses, by W. S. B. Maps and Sketches, by the Author.—New York: Harper & Bros.; Toronto: Willing & Williamson.