

THE MAGAZINES.

The most interesting contribution to an average number of the *Cornhill* is "R. L. S.'s" essay on Burns, which dwells principally upon a side of the poet's character usually left a good deal in the shade, his attachments. Unfortunately this is not the brightest side, and in one or two instances it seems impossible to avoid convicting Burns out of his own mouth not only of heartlessness, but of vulgarity. With no attempt at a formal vindication, Mr. Stevenson still does the best he can for Burns by pointing out the essential impulsiveness of his character, and the intimate alliance of this trait with others not often found in conjunction with it, mainly independence, the capacity for self-sacrifice upon great occasions, and accurate self-knowledge. It is remarkable that nearly all his best work should have been produced within six months. "Earth-born Meteorites" expounds the theory that these bodies have at some former period been expelled from the earth or some other planet; and an essay on Hans Sachs, if not conveying much information respecting the cobbler-poet himself, is rich in illustrations of his period. "Madame de Saint-Foye's Babies" is another of the clever caricatures of phases of modern French society for which this periodical is celebrated. "Mademoiselle de Mersac" gathers interest as the catastrophe approaches; but the lively passages of description which form the staple of "White Wings" seem less likely than ever to crystallise into a novel.

Macmillan is remarkable for the autobiography of a reclaimed thief in thieves' Latin, contributed by the Chaplain of Clerkenwell Prison. Assuming its strict veracity, the amount of property appropriated during a short career by this unit in a vast host is amazing, and suggests serious reflections as to the damage occasioned to society by those who prey upon it. The depredations of this individual alone would have kept a reformatory going for a month. Dr. Asher's account of the Malakani or "Spiritual Christians" in Russia is also very interesting, and shows the same tendencies at work that have produced the Plymouth Brethren and kindred religious bodies in our own country. The Rev. A. T. Davidson insists forcibly on the unreality of mere party divisions at the present juncture; and Professor Seeley, reaching the same conclusion by a different road, contends that analogies between ancient and modern Whigs and Tories are deceptive, and that our present politics really took their rise in the French Revolution.

All the contributions to the *Fortnightly Review* are interesting and valuable, but the only one calculated to arouse a large share of public interest is that in which Mr. J. A. Froude, formerly the apostle of general confederation in the South African colonies, advocates their separation into two separate commonwealths. The paper will be regarded as another instance of the writer's incurable flightiness; but some of the incidental suggestions, such as the appointment of a permanent secretary for South African matters (so long as this functionary is not Mr. Froude himself) will be found worthy of attention. Mr. Horace White points out some weighty objections to the apparently rational proposal to give the members of the United States Cabinet seats in the Legislature, all, however, reducible to this, that the measure would strengthen the direct action of public opinion in the country, and that public opinion is not to be trusted. The Hon. E. L. Stanley's defence of the London School Board gains weight by dignity and good temper, while Mr. Romanes's reply to the *Edinburgh Review* on Evolution spoils a good case by scolding. Mr. Courtney's article on the British Museum Library brings forward many useful suggestions worthy of serious attention.

The *Nineteenth Century* makes a good show this month. Perhaps the most generally interesting contribution is one from the pen of a distinguished foreign visitor, Herr Karl Hillebrand, being the first of a series of familiar letters on modern England. It is principally devoted to an analysis of the present tendency towards French political sympathies and literary fashions, a tendency which a German observer cannot be expected to approve, and which we agree with him in regarding with some disfavour. We may hint, however, that it may be partly due to the extraordinary feebleness and unattractiveness of contemporary German literature, as distinguished from mere erudite research. Dr. Hillebrand's remarks on Comte betray a very inadequate appreciation of that powerful though crotchety thinker. Mr. Archibald Forbes's defence of military flogging will also attract much attention, and his experience in the ranks undoubtedly adds weight to his opinion. Mr. Fawcett is, for him, singularly optimistic in the conviction he expresses that we have at last made "a new departure" in Indian finance, and oblivious of the strength of the private interests opposed to economy. His article may be usefully read in connection with the concluding part of Mr. Caird's tour, with its recommendations for the simplification of legal procedure, the extension of industrial employment, and the improvement of land tenure. Mr. Gladstone is daintily subtle and ingenious in his speculations on Homeric mythology; but Mr. Schütz Wilson, writing on Lucrezia Borgia, not only brings forward no discoveries of his own, but seems ignorant of the discoveries of others.

The *Contemporary Review* is solid but dry, the only article with any pretensions to liveliness being one on a subject upon which it is difficult to be dull, Macvey Napier's Correspondence. Professor Mivart's chapter on "The Forms and Colours of Living Creatures," however, though a mere congeries of facts, impresses the imagination by the writer's consummate mastery over the accumulated mass of detail; and Mr. Keay's essay on "The Myths of the Sea" presents many features of great interest. Mr. H. Miller's appeal to the rich on behalf of the poor claims respectful consideration, but is open to the objection of discouraging self-reliance and self-help in an excess of philanthropic zeal.

Blackwood is hardly up to its usual mark, with the exception of the continuation of "Reata." The exception, however, is significant, for in spirit and pathos "Reata" is at the head of all the novels now in course of publication. Mr. Oliphant's account of his sojourn about Damascus is remarkable for a description of the extraordinary feats performed and sufferings undergone by Mohammedan dervishes in a state of religious frenzy. Unfortunately the susceptibilities of Mr. Oliphant's party prevented them from probing the matter to the bottom. He justly remarks on the advantages which Syrian Christians enjoy over Mussulmans in being under the immediate protection of European Powers, but omits to observe that this privilege is a consequence of Turkish misgovernment, and that the Turks cannot justly complain of a situation which they have created for themselves. There are also a pleasing analysis of the Ion of Euripides, and a French story, tragical enough, and which to a Frenchman would, no doubt, appear purely pathetic, but to English apprehension is not wholly free from an admixture of the ludicrous.

Fraser makes but slow progress towards the ideal which the editor professes to have set before himself. Mr. Blackburne's story is always good, and Mr. Saintsbury's review of the precursors of Corneille exhibits his usual critical mastery, but the subject is uninteresting. Mrs. Brassey's Syrian tour and Mr.

Kebbel's sketch of partridge-shooting make pleasant light reading. Mr. Blind's glimpses of Prince Napoleon in the National Assembly thirty years ago is hardly sufficient groundwork for eighteen pages of "reminiscences."

Many shortcomings might be pointed out in Mr. Anthony Trollope's essay on Nathaniel Hawthorne in the *North American Review*, but he is more successful in estimating Hawthorne's genius than could have been expected with a writer of not dissimilar mental constitution. It is interesting to learn that Hawthorne greatly admired Mr. Trollope's novels, in which he no doubt recognised elements lacking to himself. Professor Newcombe's essay on "The Standard of Value" embodies a proposal, very difficult to carry into effect, of making the conventional value of money correspond to, and consequently vary with, the intrinsic value of the metal. The second and concluding part of Richard Wagner's Autobiography will probably convince any unprejudiced reader of the sincerity and elevation of his aims, whatever may be thought of his concluding prophecy—that German music is destined to become the universal language of humanity. The continuation of the "Diary of a Public Man" at the outbreak of the civil war is as interesting as the first part. It contains abundant evidence of the sagacity and magnanimity of President Lincoln, the more impressive as the writer was evidently far from duly appreciating these qualities at the time.

Scribner and the *Atlantic Monthly* are, as usual, very pleasant and varied. The continuation of Mr. James's novel, "Confidence," is the most noteworthy contribution to the former. In the latter we especially remark an excellent paper on the Venus of Milo, a review of the life of Albert Gallatin, and an impartial examination of the programme of the "labour party" in the United States, pointing out the affinity between the doctrines of its leaders and those promulgated by Rousseau.

The *University Magazine* is chiefly remarkable for the continuation of the eccentric but clever and powerful "Ichabod." Ichabod, the apostle of pessimism, is a real creation, and a very curious example of the power of earnest conviction to ensure respect for a personage who is constantly presented in an unamiable and sometimes in a ridiculous light. The subject of the monthly portrait is Mr. Arthur Sullivan. The *Month* has two lame apologies for two signal pieces of intolerance, the prohibition of Pagan worship by the Christian Emperors of Rome, and the recent ill-treatment of Protestant missionaries in Connemara. Time is full of amusing trifles, but has nothing of remarkable interest except the continuations of "Greene Ferne Farm" and "The Seamy Side," both of which maintain their high standard of merit.

Besides the continuation of Mrs. Linton's powerful fiction, the *Gentleman's Magazine* has two articles of high literary merit—Mr. Mew's essay on Cervantes as a dramatist, and the first of a series of articles on the younger French poets of the present day by M. Catulle Mendès, himself not the least distinguished of their number. Diex, Coppée, Heredia, and Méral are the subjects of this first instalment, and M. Mendès's criticisms are accompanied by admirable translations from the pen of Mr. Arthur O'Shaughnessy, so easy and finished that they might well pass for original compositions. The rendering of Diex's poem on the risen Lazarus is especially fine. There are also an excellent popular paper on protoplasm, by Dr. A. Wilson, and an account of the remote and little visited village where Nelson first drew breath.

Temple Bar, besides a fair allowance of fiction, has papers on Tallyrand and Goldoni. Mr. McCarthy's and Mr. Gibbon's novels continue to run their attractive course in *Belgravia*, which has also an interesting scientific article on spiders and other thread-spinning animals, and one of Mr. James Payn's amusing little stories, "The Honest Farmer." The *New Monthly* presents a new feature in a series of photographic portraits with accompanying memoirs. Three are given this month, Sir Erskine May, Mr. G. F. Armstrong, the author of "Saul," and Mr. R. Tangye, mechanical engineer. *Home* is a pleasing miscellany as usual, and as usual the most attractive portion is Mrs. Riddell's story, "Buttercups and Daisies."

The *Biograph* for this month contains the fourth and concluding part of Lord Beaconsfield's memoir, written by Charles Pebody. The author's standpoint may be known by a single quotation, in which most persons will think that eulogy is overstrained:—"The remark that was once made upon Burke may be made with equal truth upon Lord Beaconsfield. Each and all of these men—Lord Russell, Lord Palmerston, Lord Melbourne, and even Mr. Gladstone—might have been taken out of Lord Beaconsfield's mind without reducing him to the level of a second-rate man." There are seventeen other memoirs, including a portion of a discriminating one upon Victor Hugo, in the present number.

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin, and Co. publish this month No. 1 of a new work on Ferns, by James Britten, with coloured plates, painted from nature by D. Blair; Part I of a New and Revised Edition of Old and New London, with which is given a large Map of London as it now is; and the first monthly part of a re-issue of their Technical Educator, most opportunely begun this month. We have also received their Magazine of Art, Illustrated (the success which has attended the issue of which has induced the publishers to determine upon its enlargement, and this change will be effected with the commencement of the new volume, the price of the magazine remaining unaltered); an unusually good part of Longfellow's Poetical Works, Illustrated; Science for All, Illustrated; Familiar Wild Flowers, with Coloured Plates; Part I. of European Ferns, with Coloured Illustrations from Nature; the Illustrated History of the Russo-Turkish War; their Family Magazine, with its usual amount of varied excellence, pictorial and descriptive; and the first three numbers of an Illustrated Book of the Dog, by Vero Shaw, assisted by the leading breeders of the day.

We have also to acknowledge the receipt of Part 8 of A Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Good Words, London Society, St. James's Magazine, Tinsley's Magazine, the Argosy, the Churchman's Monthly Magazine, Charing-Cross, Science Gossip, Men of Mark, the Theatre, Greenhouse Favourites, Heath's Fern World, Kensington, Golden Hours, Peep-Show, Familiar Wild Flowers, Haydn's Dictionary of Popular Domestic Medicine, Haydn's Bible Dictionary, Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, Josephus, Science for All, Mission Life, Excelsior, Kind Words, Christian Age, Golden Childhood, the Animal World, Ladies' Gazette of Fashion, English-woman's Domestic Magazine, Myra's Journal of Dress and Needlework, Myra's Mid-Monthly Journal, Sylvia's Home Journal, the Ladies' Treasury, Weldon's Ladies' Journal; and Monthly Parts of All the Year Round, Once a Week, Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, Sunday Magazine, Gardener's Magazine, Gardening Illustrated, Day of Rest, Weekly Welcome, Social Notes, Young People's Paper, Sunday Reading for the Young, the Christian Age, and the Boys' Own Paper.

In the financial year, March 31 last, the fee stamps in judicature in England amounted to £224,606, and in the Probate Court to £133,106. The net produce on receipts, draughts, and other penny stamps in the year was £825,559.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, CYPRUS.

The beautiful old Church of St. Nicholas, at Nikosia, in Cyprus, which is said to have been built by the Crusaders, perhaps English, at the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, but which has been desecrated since the storming of the city by the Turks in 1570, is about to be restored for Divine worship according to the rites of the Church of England. This project originated with the Bishop of Gibraltar during his late visit to Cyprus. The Chaplain for the English Residents, the Rev. Josiah Spencer, B.A., has secured, on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a perpetual lease of the building from the Turkish official corporation of trustees for an annual payment of 6000 piastres (£33 6s. 8d.); and he is at present engaged in collecting, in England, the sum necessary to restore the chancel, which portion of the church, having a beautiful vaulted roof, octagonal lantern and dome, will be sufficient for present requirements. We are informed that £500 will be required before the work can be commenced, which ought to be in October. The present floor of the chancel, roughly paved with pebbles, is three feet above the true floor, and it is expected that inscriptions will be found.

In a pastoral letter which the Bishop of Gibraltar has just published we read:—"It is a remarkable fact that at the beginning of the fourteenth century there was at Nikosia a church which went by the name of 'St. Nicholas of the English,' and is so styled in old records. You will find a notice of this church in a lecture delivered last year at Oxford by the Regius Professor of History. As you may not have an opportunity of reading this lecture, I will give you a short account of the church. When Acre, which was the last fortress in Palestine surrendered to the Turks, was in 1291 finally compelled to yield, and the forces of the Cross had withdrawn from the Holy Land, some found a home in Cyprus, and among them the Order of St. Thomas of Acre, a small, semi-religious knightly order of Englishmen. This order had been founded by the sister and the brother-in-law of Becket, and possessed a hospital, built on the site of the house where Becket was born, and a church on the spot where now is the chapel of the Mercers' Company. During the Crusades the order settled at Acre, and devoted themselves to the office of burying the dead. At the siege of Acre the order is represented as leading the 5000 soldiers whom the English King, Edward I., had sent to Palestine. Such members of the order as survived the siege settled at Nikosia, where they possessed a church called 'St. Nicholas of the English.' The story of the appearance of St. Nicholas and St. Thomas to the London Crusaders in a storm at sea in 1189 or 1190, as Professor Stubbs suggests to me, probably had something to do with the establishment of the order; and the connection between St. Nicholas and the English is clearly due to the fact that the English were sailors. Various religious ceremonies are recorded in ancient documents as having been held in this church. It seems to have been the place in which the masters, priors, and custodes of the order were appointed to their offices. The name continually appears in the registered acts of the order. Speaking of one such ceremony, Professor Stubbs thus writes:—"The ceremony was performed in the Church of St. Nicholas of the English, in the city of Nikosia, one of the many churches which formerly, according to Father Stephen of Lusignan, adorned that city, but of which any relic would now, since the Venetians destroyed 130 in the process of fortification, scarcely be looked for." Whether the desecrated Church of St. Nicholas which I saw in Nikosia was originally built by funds from London, and is that very edifice in which Englishmen worshipped 500 or 600 years ago, I have not yet been able to discover. At any rate, the church bears the same name. The style, moreover, is transitional. Whatever its history, if we make it our church, we shall have in it a bond connecting us, if not with this knightly order of Englishmen who lived in Nikosia in days long past, yet with our Eastern brethren, whose forefathers worshipped in it before it was seized and desecrated by the Turks."

The Civil Service Commissioners have given notice that an open competition for situations as assistant of Excise in the Inland Revenue Department will be held in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Liverpool, Bristol, Plymouth, Leeds, Birmingham, Norwich, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Cork, Galway, Belfast, Omagh, and Limerick, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 25 and 26. Appointments will be given to the first seventy candidates on the list, if duly qualified in respect of age, health, and character.

A special meeting of the Preston Town Council was held on the 2nd inst. for the purpose of considering the offer of the trustees of the late Mr. Harris Sola to devote £70,000 of the money at their disposal to the establishment of a free library for Preston. It was decided to apply for Parliamentary powers for the purchasing of the necessary site. The whole of the east side of the Preston market-place is to be pulled down, the cost of the acquirement being about £25,000, and the cost of the building itself will be at least £50,000.

The *Lancet* warns of a peril near home. Grave cases of poisoning by supposed "mushrooms," gathered in Hyde Park and Regent's Park, have fallen under treatment at Middlesex Hospital. The symptoms were urgent, and included violent delirium, though happily the patients recovered under treatment. This is a matter of general interest, because it is quite possible that some of the "mushrooms" supplied by costermongers, and even family greengrocers, may be obtained from the same localities; and it is by no means so easy as is generally supposed to distinguish the genuine edible from the poisonous fungus.

Mr. M'Laren, M.P., opening a bazaar at Linlithgow yesterday week in aid of a local British Workman's Public-house, said no repressive measures and no Act of Parliament would make men sober, but he thought the establishment of such houses would do much in that direction.—Lord Aberdeen on Saturday last inaugurated a coffee-tavern at Neath. In his address he observed that the coffee-tavern movement only touched one phase of the evil, inasmuch as the very class of persons to be reached were those who would not attend such houses. He could not concur with Sir Wilfrid Lawson in a scheme which was likely to lead to the absolute suppression of public-houses, but he thought they should be regulated on the Gothenburg system, which had resulted in a gain to the Treasury in one town in Sweden of at least £10,000 a year.—Lord Lyttelton, in speaking at the opening of a coffee-house at Bewdley last Saturday evening, alluded to the want of thrift among English workpeople, and said this had greatly intensified the suffering arising from the depression in trade and agriculture. He pointed out the strong contrast between England and France at the present time, and attributed the greater prosperity of France very much to the thriftier habits of the French people.—A bazaar in aid of the funds of a British Workman and Coffee Palace was opened at Hastings on Tuesday by Mrs. Brassey, who, in the course of a short address, advocated the virtue of temperance in the higher as well as the lower class.