

SINGER, S. Onkelos u. das Verhältnis seines Targums zur Halacha. Frankfurt-a-M.: Kaufmann. 1 M. 20 Pf.

HISTORY.

BOISLIEUX, A. M. de. Mémoires des Intendants sur l'Etat des Généralités dressés pour l'Instruction du Duc de Bourgogne. T. 1. Mémoire de la Généralité de Paris. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 12 fr.

CUQ, E. De quelques Inscriptions relatives à l'Administration de Dioclétien. Paris: Thorin. 5 fr.

GRUNHAGEN, C. Geschichte d. l. schlesischen Krieger nach archival. Quellen. I. Bd. Bis zum Abkommen v. Klein-Schnellendorf. Gotha: Perthes. 10 M.

MAGNIENVILLE, R. de. Le Maréchal d'Humières et le Gouvernement de Compiègne, 1648-51. Paris: Pion. 6 fr.

MAISNIAT, J. Jules César en Gaule. T. 3. Blocus d'Alesia. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 10 M.

PALLAIN, G. Correspondance inédite du Prince de Tallcyrand et du Roi Louis XVIII. pendant le Congrès de Vienne. Paris: Pion. 9 fr.

RAUNIE, E. Chansonnier historique du XVIII^e Siècle. 2^e Partie. Le Règne de Louis XV. Paris: Quantin. 10 fr.

SAIGON, G. Les Juifs du Languedoc antérieurement au XIV^e Siècle. Paris: Picard. 15 fr.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.

DUNCAN, P. M., and W. P. SLADEN. Memoir of the Echinodermata of the Arctic Sea to the West of Greenland. Van Voorst. 10s. 6d.

PFLIEDERER, E. Kantischer Kriticismus u. englische Philosophie. Halle: Pfeffer. 2 M. 50 Pf.

STEINDACHNER, F. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Flussische Sidamerika's. II. 5 M. Ichthyologische Beiträge. 2 M. 60 Pf. Wien: Gerold's Sohn.

STRUEPFEL, L. Grundriss der Logik od. der Lehre vom wissenschaftl. Denken. Leipzig: Böhme. 2 M. 80 Pf.

WERNER, K. Kant in Italien. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 4 M.

PHILOLOGY, ETC.

BISCHOFF, F. Der Coniunctiv bei Christien. Halle: Niemeyer. 3 M. 60 Pf.

FRANCKE, K. De hymni in Cererem Homericis compositione, dictione, acetate. Kiel: Lipsius & Tischer. 1 M.

HEINEMANN, K. Ueb. das Hrabanische Glossar. Halle: Niemeyer. 2 M. 40 Pf.

HEYDEMANN, K. Satyr- u. Bakchennamen. Halle: Niemeyer. 3 M.

KLIMKE, Diodorus Siculus u. die römische Annalistik. Königshütte: Lowack. 2 M.

LAVES. Kritisch-exegetische Beiträge zu Vergils 6. u. 10. Eclogo, sowie zum 1. Buche der Georgica. Lyck: Wiebe. 1 M.

MEYER, P. Untersuchung üb. die Frage der Echtheit d. Briefwechsels Cicero ad Brutum sowol vom historischen als vom sprachlichen Gesichtspunkt ans. Stuttgart: Knapp. 2 M. 40 Pf.

SACHAU, E. Ueb. die Lage v. Tigranokerta. Berlin: Dümmler. 5 M.

STEINTHAL, H. Abriss der Sprachwissenschaft. I. Th. Die Sprache im Allgemeinen. 2. Abtg. Berlin: Dümmler. 1 M. 50 Pf.

TRUMPP, E. Grammatische Untersuchungen üb. die Sprache der Brähuis. München: Ackermann. 4 M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MORALITY OF THE PROFESSION OF LETTERS.

Paris: April 27, 1881.

I have just seen the ACADEMY of April 9. Your critic has a kind appreciation of my style; but I must suppose him to exaggerate, for I seem to have failed to convey my meaning. I do not know whether £500 (or only £300, as people used to say) be the necessary substructure of decent literary performance. It is a poor account of us if it be so. It is not so in other arts; witness, for instance, Millet. Journey work is done in all the provinces of human labour; and in all it is useful, if it is done well. A man is a sub-lieutenant before he is a general; and many remain subalterns till their death. I neither deny the existence nor am ignorant of the manners of the modern Grub Street. But it is my contention that, even there, a man may do some service to the world, and himself learn patience, precision, and courage in his profession. He may never rise higher; what then? The vast majority of mankind never rise. In the midst of clamant wants, and busy with entirely mechanical and unprogressive toils, they must end their lives as they began them. Yet if these people neglect their dull and ill-paid duties, we can tax them roundly. The literary man, even in Grub Street, has a very different hope before him; he can say, or he can leave unsaid; he has a career, if it be only of a kind; he has an influence, although it be anonymous. Your critic speaks of my optimism. I am

optimistic enough to hope, or at least pray, for a time when a man shall do whatever his hand findeth to do with his full energy; and, instead of complaining that it is his "worst work," shall take effectual steps to make of it his best.

Times change, and we continue to expect a better. The conscience of the literary profession has surely grown more scrupulous since the days of the Restoration; and surely it may grow more scrupulous still. And your critic will hardly persuade me that the worst of current work is written by the poorest men. He has fully persuaded me, however, of one thing—that the influence of literature lies chiefly in single and striking expressions, since not even a critic seems able to observe both the end and the beginning of an article so short as mine.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

ASSONANCE.

Trieste: April 25, 1881.

The *Pall Mall Budget*, in a rather "knagging" and creaking notice of Mr. J. J. Aubertin's last study of Camoens (*Seventy Sonnets*), raises a question worth discussing. The reviewer blames such lines as

"While fortune was disposed to cheer my sight
With hope some consolation here to find,"

and

"In blossom thou wast snatched, but newly
grown,
Ah! Dom Antonio, by too harsh a blow," &c.

His reason for blaming the words in italics is that they are "assonants;" his authority is Coleridge, who held such assonance "peculiarly distressing to the ear;" and his conclusion is that "rhymes should vary as much as possible in sound."

All know that Coleridge wrote musical verse, but his ear, in popular phrase, was not everybody's. To my ear the assonance, used and not abused, adds to pleasure; it acts *ritornelle*, it binds the lines, compacting the whole, and it preserves the pitch. The *dictum* concerning the extreme variety of rhyme-tone apparently arises from what induced English sonnetteers to affect a misplaced terminal distich, the sluggishness of the Northern ear, which expects a thump as with the national steam-hammer. This *codicilla*, by-the-way, is well treated by Mr. Aubertin in his Dedicatory Letter.

It would be interesting to know if the *Pall Mall* critic expresses, on the subject of "assonance," his own feeling or that of the general. I hope not the latter. The verdict would add to the difficulty of translation, already hard enough—

"Sith rhyme in English hath such scarcity."

R. F. BURTON.

PROF. NICHOL'S DECASYLLABIC LINES.

London Institution: May 3, 1881.

Mr. Saintsbury says that the two following lines in Prof. Nichol's new volume are not decasyllabic:—

"Thou front and emblem of the world's toil,"

and

"Stets fest und treu 'o'erwhelming vain 'Gloire.'"

I believe that there be parts of this island where the two-syllable Old-English word *wooruld* (compounded of the stems of *wer* and *aldr*) has not degenerated into *wō(r)ld*, nor the two-syllable word *o'er* into *au(r)*. And, Southron myself, I say for Prof. Nichol—

Πελοποννησιαστὶ λαλεῖμεις·
Δωρίσδεν δ' ἔξεστι, δοκῶ, τοῖς Δωριέεσσι
—especially when Dorisding is simply pronouncing rightly.

EDWARD B. NICHOLSON.

A LITTLE-KNOWN BYRON LETTER.

Bath Literary Institute: April 27, 1881.

The original of the letter of Lord Byron published in your last issue (ACADEMY, No. 463) is in my possession, and not in the hands of an Italian gentleman, as there implied. I shall be happy to show it to anyone interested.

B. J. BAKER.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, May 9, 5 p.m. Royal Institution: General Monthly Meeting.

7.30 p.m. Aristotelian: "The English School (Hartley, Mill, &c.)" by Mr. W. A. Casson.

8 p.m. Society of Arts: Cantor Lecture III., "The Art of Lace-Making," by Mr. Alan S. Cole.

8.30 p.m. Geographical: "A Journey among the Great Andes of the Equator," by Mr. Edward Whymper.

TUESDAY, May 10, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Non-Metallic Elements," by Prof. Dewar.

8 p.m. Society of Arts: "Trade Relations between Great Britain and her Dependencies," by Mr. W. Westgarth.

8 p.m. Anthropological Institute: "Some Naga Skulls," by Prof. G. Dancer Thane; "The Wild Tribes of the Naga Hills," by Col. R. G. Woodthorpe.

8 p.m. Photographic.

8 p.m. Institution of Civil Engineers: "Torpedo Boats and Light Yachts for High-Speed Steam Navigation," by Mr. J. L. Thornycroft.

WEDNESDAY, May 11, 8 p.m. Society of Arts: "The Manufacture of Glass for Decorative Purposes," by Mr. H. J. Powell.

8 p.m. Geological.

8 p.m. Microscopical.

THURSDAY, May 12, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Magnetism," by Prof. Tyndall.

4.30 p.m. Royal.

8 p.m. Mathematical: "Note on the Co-ordinates of a Tangent Line to the Curve of Intersection of Two Quadrics," by Mr. W. R. W. Roberts; "Some Solutions of the '15 School-girl' Problem," by Mr. E. Carmael; "Notes on Ptolemy's Theorem," by Mr. C. W. Merrifield; "Algebraical Notes," by Mr. C. Hudson; "The Summation of Certain Hypergeometric Series," by the Rev. T. R. Terry.

8 p.m. Society of Arts: "Recent Progress in the Manufacture and Applications of Steel," by Prof. A. K. Huntington.

8 p.m. Telegraph Engineers.

8 p.m. Society for the Fine Arts: "Art Exhibitions," by Dr. Phené.

8.30 p.m. Antiquaries.

FRIDAY, May 13, 5 p.m. London Institution: "James Russell Lowell," by the Rev. H. E. Haweis.

8 p.m. Quekett.

8 p.m. Society of Arts: "Burmah," by Gen. Sir Arthur Phayre.

8 p.m. New Shakspeare: "The Worth of the First Quarto of *Hamlet* as an Acting Play," by Mr. F. J. Furnivall.

8 p.m. Folk-Lore: "The Superstitions of Pepys and his Times" and "A Note on English Fairies," by Mr. H. B. Wheatley.

9 p.m. Royal Institution: "Mental Images and Vision," by Mr. F. Galton.

SATURDAY, May 14, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Scotland's Part in English Literature," by Prof. H. Morley.

3 p.m. Physical: "Electric Absorption," by Prof. H. A. Rowland and Mr. E. H. Nichols.

SCIENCE.

The Old Testament in the Jewish Church: Twelve Lectures on Biblical Criticism. By W. Robertson Smith. (Edinburgh: A. & C. Black.)

THE trial of progressive Biblical science in the person of Prof. Robertson Smith, whatever its result may be to the Free Church Aberdeen College, can hardly be regretted in view of the strengthened position of Biblical science at the bar of public opinion. It is not too much to say that the possibility of a free and yet religious handling of the Biblical texts has been established by the various defences of Prof. Robertson Smith, as it had not been established before. The last, and perhaps the most important, of these defences consists of the twelve lectures now laid before the public, which were originally delivered to very large audiences in Edinburgh and Glasgow in the early part of this year. To have accomplished the composition, the delivery, and the printing of such a delicate and complicated investigation within so short a time is a feat which more than anything else