

Scotland of Mary Stuart" is headed "Learning and Letters," but wanders rather widely from its text. It is readable enough, though the literary criticism which it contains is not very novel. The author accepts the untenable notion that "Christ's Kirk on the Green" is by James I., though he admits that the existing poem can only be a modernised version. Oddly enough, a writer in the current number of *Macmillan* has fallen into the same error. "A Talk beside Ulleswater" is a clever dialogue on the paths of death-scenes as described by ancient and modern poets. Mr. A. Innes Shand gives an account of the "City of London Police," drawing the moral that "the Radicals who threaten the Corporation and its privileges will scarcely rest their case on the shortcomings of that department." The number concludes with two political articles, "Europe versus England," by "Diplomaticus," and Lord Brabourne's rejoinder to Mr. Gladstone's criticisms on his article of last month.

Macmillan this month has no very striking article. An anonymous sketch of the late Master of Trinity is interesting, though it does not contain many of the good stories which the subject might lead one to expect. Mr. J. Logie Robertson contributes a pleasant paper on Allan Ramsay. "The Protectorate of Porcolongu," by Mr. H. D. Traill, relates how the simple-minded Herr Wolkenkopf, German consul in Porcolongu, outwitted the astute representatives of England and France at "the game he did not understand." Under the title of "New Lamps for Old Ones," Mr. W. L. Courtney protests against recent changes at Oxford. The mission of Oxford, in his view, is to supply a "corrective to modern tendencies"; and she is unfaithful to her calling if she yields to the clamorous demands of "Science and Practical Utility." A paper headed "An Alexandrian Age" is an indictment of the literary characteristics of our own epoch. The analogy suggested in the title of the article is undoubtedly, to some extent, a true one, and the writer makes some good points, but his criticism is too one-sided. We must not forget to mention an article on "The Poetry of the Spanish People," though the verse translations which accompany the quotations seldom give an adequate idea of their beauty.

A VERY angular essay on "St. Paul from a Jewish point of View," by Dr. Schiller-Szinessy, forms a scarcely welcome variety in this month's *Expositor*. At any rate, we see in it the germs of much possible controversy; nor can we believe that the author has made the best possible use of his wide Talmudic and Rabbinical attainments. The subject is one of great interest. The materials, however, are scanty, and still await scientific treatment. Prof. Cheyne concludes his critical biography of Heinrich Ewald. Prof. Curtiss gives another of his useful surveys of American literature on the Old Testament. The discrimination of the notices and the careful avoidance of partizanship are most praiseworthy. The homiletical element, which is, we suppose, indispensable to the success of the magazine, is well represented; and a great Scottish preacher and theologian who has passed away (Dr. John Ker) is portrayed in a delicate character-sketch by the editor. The concluding note on Dr. Hatch's forthcoming "Essays on Biblical Greek" will attract the attention of students.

THE LOAN OF MSS. FROM THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

THE following correspondence tells its own tale. I forward it to the ACADEMY not because it interests myself, but with the conviction that

the peculiar proceedings of the curators, Bodleian Library, call for full publicity, and I begin with the beginning.

Yours truly,
R. F. BURTON.

No. i.

"23 Dorset Street, Portman Square: Sept. 13, 1886.

"Sir,—I have the honour to solicit your assistance in the following matter.

"Our friend, Dr. Steingass, has kindly consented to collaborate with me in retranslating from the Wortley Montague MS. of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the tales originally translated in vol. vi. of Dr. Jonathan Scott's *Arabian Nights*. Dr. Steingass cannot, and I should find it very inconvenient, to live at Oxford during the work, both of us having engagements in London. It would be a boon to us if the curators of the Bodleian would allow the MS. to be transferred, volume by volume, to the India Office, and remain under the custody of the chief librarian—yourself. The whole consists of seven volumes, and we would begin with vols. iii. and iv. I may note that the tales (as may be seen by Scott's version) contain nothing indelicate or immoral; in fact, the whole MS. is exceptionally pure. Moreover, the MS., as far as I can learn, is never used at Oxford. I am the more anxious about this matter as the November fogs will drive me from England, and I want to finish the extract before winter sets in, which can be done only by the co-operation of Dr. Steingass.

"I have the honour to be, sir,
Yours obediently,
RICHARD F. BURTON.

"Dr. R. Rost, Chief Librarian India Office."

As nearly a month had elapsed without my receiving any reply, I directed the following to the vice-chancellor of the university, Rev. Dr. Bellamy:

No. ii.

"Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall: Oct. 13, 1886.

"Sir,—I have the honour to submit to you the following details:—

"On September 13, 1886, I wrote to Dr. Rost, Chief Librarian, India Office, an official letter requesting him to apply to the Curators of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, for the temporary transfer of Arabic Manuscript 522 (the Wortley Montague text of the *Arabian Nights*) to the library of the India Office, there to be kept under special charge of the chief Librarian. There being seven volumes, I wanted only one or two at a time. I undertook not to keep them long, and, further, I pledged myself not to translate tales that might be offensive to propriety.

"Thus, I did not apply for a personal loan, which, indeed, I should refuse on account of the responsibility which it would entail. I applied for the safe and temporary transfer of a work, volume by volume, from one public library to another.

"My official letter was forwarded at once by Dr. Rost, but this was the only expeditious step. On Saturday, September 25, the curators could form no quorum, the same thing took place on Saturday, October 9, and there is a prospect that the same will take place on Saturday, October 23.

"I am acquainted with many of the public libraries of Europe, but I know of none that would throw such obstacles in the way of students.

"The best authorities inform me that until June, 1886, the signatures of two curators enabled a student to borrow a book or a manuscript; but that since June a meeting of three curators has been required, and that a lesser number does not form a quorum.

"May I be permitted to suggest that the statute upon the subject of borrowing books and manuscripts urgently calls for revision?

"I have the honour to be, sir,
Yours obediently,
RICHARD F. BURTON.

"The Vice-Chancellor, Oxford."

The curators presently met and the following was the result:—

No. iii.

"Monday, Nov. 1, 1886.

"Dear Sir Richard Burton,—The curators considered your application on Saturday, Oct. 30,

afternoon, and the majority of them were unwilling to lend the MS.

"Yours very truly,
(Signed) EDWARD B. NICHOLSON."

Learning through a private source that my case had been made an unpleasant exception to a long-standing rule of precedent, I again addressed the Reverend the Vice-Chancellor:

No. iv.

"23 Dorset Street, Portman Square: Nov. 3, 1886.

"Sir,—I have the honour to remind you that, on October 13, I addressed you officially requesting a temporary transfer of the Wortley Montague manuscript (*Arabian Nights*) from the Bodleian Library to the personal care of the Librarian, India Office.

"To this letter I received no reply. But on November 1 I was informed by Mr. Librarian Nicholson that the curators had considered my application on Saturday, October 30, and the majority of them were unwilling to lend the manuscript.

"The same curators at the same meeting allowed sundry manuscripts for the use of an Indian subject to be sent to the India Office.

"I cannot but protest against this invidious proceeding, and I would willingly learn what cause underlies it.

"1. It cannot be the importance of the manuscript, which is one of the meanest known to me—a schoolboy character, most erroneous, uncorrected, and valuable only for a few new tales.

"2. It cannot be any consideration of public morals, for I undertook (*if the loan were granted*) not to translate tales which might be considered offensive to strict propriety.

"3. It cannot be its requirement for local use. The manuscript stands on a high shelf in the manuscript room, and not one man in the whole so-called "university" can read it.

"I have the honour to be, sir,
Yours obediently,
RICHARD F. BURTON.

"The Vice-Chancellor, Oxford."

Thus, as you will see by the following dates, I was kept waiting six weeks before being favoured with a refusal:

Application made on September 13 and sent on.

On Saturday, September 25, curators could not form quorum, and deferred next meeting till Saturday, October 9.

Saturday, October 9. Again no quorum; and yet it might easily have been formed, as three curators were on or close to the spot.

Saturday, October 23. Six curators met and did nothing.

Saturday, October 30. Curators met and refused me the loan of MS.

Upon these proceedings comment is unnecessary. I leave deductions to the common sense of your readers. RICHARD F. BURTON.

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

- BIBLIOTHEK älterer Schriftwerke der deutschen Schweiz. Die Schweizer Minnesänger. Hrg. v. K. Bartsch. Frauenfeld: Huber. 8 M.
- BORNIAK, G. Geschichte der französischen Litteratur von den ältesten Zeiten bis zum Ende d. 2. Kaiserreichs. Berlin: Nicolai. 9 M.
- DUENTZER, H. Goethes Liebesbriefe an Frau v. Stein. 1778-1789. Leipzig: Wartig. 8 M.
- DUPOY, E. Victor Hugo, l'homme et le poète. Paris: Lecène. 3 fr. 50 c.
- GOETHE u. das Monstrum od. Hochzeit v. Sonne u. Mond. Klausenburg: Demjén. 5 M.
- HOLTZINGER, H. Kunsthistorische Studien. Tübingen: Fues. 2 M. 40 Pf.
- HUBNER, A. Frhr. v. Durch das britische Reich. Leipzig: Brockhaus. 12 M.
- KAWERAU, W. Aus Magieburgs Vergangenheit. Beiträge zur Litteratur- u. Culturgeschichte d. 18. Jahrh. Halle: Niemeyer. 5 M.
- LACOMBE, P. Bibliographie Parisienne: tableaux de moeurs et relations de voyageurs 1600-1893. Paris: Mouquette. 20 fr.
- LOISEAU, A. Histoire de la littérature portugaise. Paris: Thorin. 4 fr.
- LORENTZ, B. Die Taube im Altertume. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M. 20 Pf.
- RUNGE, L. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Backstein-Architektur Italiens. Berlin: Wasmuth. 38 M.