

Notices of Archaeological Publications.

LLANTWIT MAJOR: A FIFTH CENTURY UNIVERSITY. By ALFRED C. FRYER, M.A. 1893. (Stock.)

This is a reprint enlarged of a paper read to the Cardiff Naturalists' Society in 1893, the intention being to give some idea of what a university on the Glamorganshire coast with a fifth century foundation would be at that time. With such an aim the work must necessarily draw largely on legendary lore, but the author here honestly and freely gives his references, and acknowledges his obligations without stint. In Norman times Llantwit suffered with other places, part of its possessions going to the Abbey of Tewkesbury. It suffered also from its own countrymen, and seems soon to have fallen low and then disappeared. Some photographs of buildings are given, one being a thirteenth century Culverhouse still standing.

The plate of the Llyfr Pren, an arrangement of twelve sticks for teaching letters, is very curious. Llantwit, once a place of importance and surrounded with remains of antiquity, is now but little known. It is well that even so small a work as this should be done, if done with care and affection, so that nothing be lost in these days of rapid changes.

THE "POET OF POETS." The love verse from the minor poems of Edmund Spenser. Edited by ALEXANDER B. GROSART, Elizabethan Library. (Stock.) 1893.

Yet another of the series of selections from the Elizabethan poets: this time from the poet of poets, the grave and serious Edmund Spenser. The subject is love, the waywardness of love. Love in peace, in the court, in the grove; love from January to December. Pretty sonnets prettily tell of a lover, and the coldness of his lady-love, as like to ice, and the harder grows the more that he intreats. Like a huntsman who sees his game escaped he sits him down in shady place and then "the gentle deer returned," fearless, and sought not to fly "till I with her own good will her firmly tied." The Epithalamion, the next given, is almost unrivalled for its fervour and has been called "an intoxication of ecstasy, ardent, noble and pure." This is followed by the Prothalamion, a spousal verse, equal to the last in structure, symmetry, and melodious cadences. The book ends with "Colin Clout's come home again." As the text is modernised, except where the change would destroy the rhyme, the poems can be easily read and understood.

THE FRENCHES OF SCOTLAND. By A. D. WELD FRENCH. Privately printed, Boston, U.S.A., 1893.

In the last volume of the *Journal* there appeared a short notice of Mr. French's "Index Armorial of the surname of French." The author has followed this up with an account of the name in Scotland. The first part of the book contains notes on the surname in Scotland generally, the second and more important part contains a well written account of the family of French, lairds of Thornydykes from the latter part of the fourteenth until the middle of the seventeenth century. The work is well printed but unfortunately lacks an index.

WEST IRISH FOLK-TALES AND ROMANCES. By WILLIAM LARMINIE. (Eliot Stock, London, 1893.)

Another volume of that charming series entitled "The Camden Library." The tales contained therein form part of a large collection which Mr. Larminie has been amassing since 1884. All have been taken down word for word from the peasant narrators in three districts, from Renvyle, in Connemara, from Achill Island, and from Glencolumkill, in Donegal. Altogether there are eighteen tales and very amusing some of them are. Mr. Larminie has added a chapter on the "Phonetic Text" and an appendix containing specimens of the Gaelic originals phonetically spelt.

VANISHING LONDON: A SERIES OF DRAWINGS ILLUSTRATING SOME OF THE OLD HOUSES, &c., IN LONDON AND WESTMINSTER. By ROWLAND W. PAUL. 4to. London. Published by the Author.

In a series of forty plates Mr. Paul has given many quaint and interesting bits from London and Westminster. The hand of destruction presses heavily on the old houses in our cities and towns, the exigencies of modern development are fast sweeping away all the work of our predecessors. More especially is this the case in and around London, the latest vandalism is the destruction of the charming Queen Anne building known as Emanuel Hospital, situated in Little James Street, Westminster. Of this building Mr. Paul gives two capital plates showing the chapel, the entrance and gable, and the courtyard. Of the many old houses formerly in the Strand but few remain, within the last year the two wooden-fronted houses, Nos. 166-7 have been pulled down. The windows had a considerable amount of carving round the architraves, giving the whole a rich appearance, although the carving itself was much dilapidated. Clement's Inn is in the hands of the builder, high and unsightly blocks of chambers and offices already occupy the garden, in a short time the pretty little "Garden House" will be a thing of the past. Built of red brick with coigns and moulded cornice of "rubbed" brick, the house, although small, is an excellent example of its date. The Rolls House will soon be gone and the chapel will be absorbed in the extension of the Record office. The Temple still possesses a few old buildings but year by year they grow less. Hare Court is

now gone, Lamb Building and the Cloisters are threatened. These old buildings with their small sets of chambers so well adapted to student or rising barrister are swept away by the governing bodies of the Temple, and replaced by palatial buildings with sets of chambers only suitable for barristers with large practices. The result is well known, many are empty or let to outsiders, whilst the students and struggling barristers—a class that should most certainly be catered for—are forced to seek accommodation elsewhere. The later plates are devoted to houses in the City, some panels and signs from the Guildhall Museum, and a fine chimney-piece lately removed from the building known as the "Palace" at Bromley-by-Bow. Mr. Paul's work will enable the reader to pick out many details as he passes along the streets, but alas! many of the houses figured have disappeared for ever.

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GREEN PASTURES: being choice extracts from the works of Robert Greene, M.A. of both Universities, 1560-1592. Made by ALEXANDER B. GROSART, Elizabethan Library. (Elliot Stock, 1894.)

Another volume of this pretty series, selected now from the works of Robert Greene. As with former volumes the compiler here must have had much difficulty in making his selections from a rather voluminous writer. Greene's special forte was the description of the ordinary or low life of his time, yet he writes always purely and without coarseness, the characteristic phrasing being dainty and pleasing, full of rhyme and rhythm. Although references to Greene may be often met with, perhaps he is among the least known of the writers of his time; thus this selection will be a welcome addition to the former issues of the Elizabethan Library.

THE STORY OF EGIL SKALLAGRIMSSON, being an Icelandic family history of the ninth and tenth centuries. Translated from the Icelandic. By Rev. W. C. GREEN. (Elliot Stock, 8vo., 1893.)

Icelandic story and literature must be always of interest to us; this story especially so, as in part it is laid in England. Beginning in Norway we go to Sweden, to Denmark, are with the Vikings, and presently in Shetland and Orkney, so to York (chap. 62) and even to London. A sea-going race these Norsemen. There are of course accounts of battles violent. The story of one at Vinheath in England, against the Scots who had advanced into Northumberland, is minute and curious. The English not being quite prepared seeking at least delay, with good knowledge of character sent an offer of money to the Scottish King. Go back to Scotland, said the messenger, and we will give you a shilling of silver from every plough. The Scot at once stopped his preparations and forebore to advance. The arrangements of the hall with the armour around it, banquets, deep drinkings, weddings, and games, help to give a complete idea of the general manners and hospitality. Much discussion has arisen whether the story is real family history, truthful and of historical value, or only a romance. Truthful seems to be the general verdict. Thus this volume may be read with great interest as giving exactly the life, thoughts, and habits of this early time. There is an index.

A HISTORY OF WESTMORLAND. Popular county histories. By RICHARD S. FERGUSON, Chancellor of Carlisle. (Elliot Stock, 8vo., 1894.)

Most carefully written, the history of the county of Westmorland here passes pleasantly before the reader from the time of the usual early inhabitant down to the '45. The last chapter entitled Miscel-

laneous is not the least interesting, describing the old Peel towers, their plan, their woodwork, and their fate; then there is a notice of the statesmen and their flocks. To review this book fully would too much tax our space; even those not immediately connected with the county should possess it. We can only hope that every county may find a chronicler so able as Chancellor Ferguson. There is a good index of thirteen pages in double columns.

HISTORY OF HADDLESEY: its past and present. With notices of many neighbouring parishes and townships, including Birkin, Drayton, Burn, Carlton, Cowick, Drax, Gateforth, Eggborough, Kellington, Roal, Pontefract, Selby, Snaith, &c., &c. By Rev. J. N. WORSFOLD, Rector of Haddlesey. (Elliot Stock, 8vo., 1894.)

Although so many place names appear on the above title the book is confined, save by occasional mention, to the first, viz., Haddlesey near Selby in the West Riding. Such work as this gathered by a resident using his opportunities must always be commended. It must serve by its varied information to stimulate and strengthen our natural love for locality and a pride in the reputation of our antecessors. There are chapters on the topography and early history and early records; the Knights Templars and their preceptory; and on the several owning families of old time, with pedigrees. The architectural features of the parish, including the church, do not seem of especial interest. At p. 144 there is a sad account of the mutilation of a fine Darcy monument of about the year 1400, rich in heraldry and having once a recumbent effigy in alabaster. Such a thing, unique in its place, instead of being regarded as in any way valuable has been broken up under the process of "restoration."

ORIGINS OF PICTISH SYMBOLISM, WITH NOTES ON THE SUN BOAR, AND A NEW READING OF THE NEWTON INSCRIPTIONS. By the Earl of Southesk. (David Douglas, 4to., Edinburgh, 1893.)

This is a learned and well-written little work dealing with the difficult subject the symbols on Pictish monuments. Thus we have, with detailed descriptions and woodcuts, the Sun Disc; the Moon Mirror; the Sun Arch; the Sun Boar; Triad Signs; and Rings. The various theories relating to these are noted, but the object of the book is to claim acceptance of the author's theory that they are of Scandinavian, not of Oriental origin. Although the problem may not yet be solved, they seem more easily explained on this theory than any other. The subject must however yet claim unprejudiced inquiry. There is an interesting chapter on Ogham inscriptions, with full illustrations in the letterpress. References to other cognate works are freely given, thus greatly aiding the novice towards an extended knowledge of the subject. Eleven full page plates containing numerous examples of the signs referred to fully illustrate the volume. As there should be, there is an ample index.

MONOGRAPH OF THE STALACTITES AND STALAGMITES OF THE
CLEAVES COVE, NEAR DALRY, AYRSHIRE. By JOHN SMITH, Vice-
President of the Geological Society of Glasgow. (Elliot Stock, 4to., 1894.)

There being no book especially devoted to this subject, the author here supplies a want. The recorded notes, the result of his own close observation, more particularly refer to Cleaves Cove, but they will do also for other places where these deposits may have often excited curiosity. Several examples of freaks and variation of form are given in 36 plates well illustrating the minute details in the letterpress. The author concludes that the growth of both stalagmites and stalactites in caverns is not a mere mechanical process of deposition of lime, but entirely a process of crystallization. Many will be glad to have the assistance of this volume as explaining the origin of these things, and others as an aid when watching their formation.

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ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AND OLD CITY LIFE: illustrations of Civil and Cathedral life from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries. By W. SPARROW SIMPSON, D.D., F.S.A., Sub-Dean. 8vo. 1894. (Stock.)

Following his previous volumes, viz., "Chapters on Old St. Paul's, 1881," and "Gleanings from Old St. Paul's, 1889," Dr. Sparrow Simpson here with this book completes the trilogy. Those who know Dr. Simpson's earlier work will feel that no pains have been spared now. Besides church matters, such as sanctuary, an account of a marriage at the "topp of Powles," the offering of a buck and doe at the high altar, &c., there are miscellaneous subjects, varied and often very curious. All have heard of Paul's Cross and the preaching there. Its site can be seen in the churchyard, and here—p. 170—there is a woodcut from the Pepysian collection, bringing before us the original by a clear and exact counterfeit presentment. There is a curious story of the punishment of a baker for fraud, the fraud being that he caused a hole to be made in his "moldinge borde," a "wicket" being provided for closing such hole. When neighbours sent their dough it was placed on the "moldinge borde" over the hole; then one sitting beneath the table opening the hole craftily took some of the dough. The punishment was the pillory, with lumps of dough hung from the neck. Another good story is of Alderman John Sely, in 1382, who attended St. Paul's without a lining to his coat, contrary to the regulations. His brethren, after deliberation, adjudged that the mayor and themselves should dine with the said John at his house and at his proper costs, and further the said John was to line his cloak in proper manner: "and so it was done."

Dr. Simpson remarks that it is very difficult to determine the exact number of the chantries, but as the certificate, very clearly written and in good order, as returned 1 Edward VI, is extant, this could easily be managed, and we would suggest that a transcript should form Dr. Simpson's next volume.

WHAT MEAN THESE STONES? By C. MACLAGAN. (David Douglas, Edinburgh.) 4to. 1894.

The title question here alludes to those standing stone circles about whose origin so many guesses and theories have been made. After noting the various ways in which the question has been answered, Miss Maclagan first disposes of the early idea of Druidism. She then points out that the high-standing stones are not sunk in the ground, but merely placed on it, kept upright by their own weight, and helping to bind a wall which originally existed between them, the whole then forming a circular walled enclosure. It is well, when puzzled over a piece of antiquity whose use is not known, to ask if anything similar can be met with in any part of the world, and we think that enclosures very much as here suggested may be found in

the primitive and happy Pacific Islands. The last illustration given is of a group, seen in Sardinia, of four circles planned in a triangular form, one circle at each angle and one in the centre, these being then united or solidified by filling in with masonry the intervening spaces; each enclosure has its own separate dark passage as an entrance. Other illustrations greatly assist the argument.

“BRAVE TRANSLUNARY THINGS,” FROM THE WORKS IN PROSE AND VERSE OF BEN JONSON. Selected by ALEXANDER B. GROSART. Portrait. 12mo. London, 1895. Elizabethan Library. (Elliot Stock.)

The above, the latest addition to the pretty Elizabethan Library, is a very acceptable well chosen selection from the writings of “rare Ben.” It must be a selection from a selection, the difficulty being the choice where there are so many gems, there being “no time, no place their wealth to tell.” The readers of Ben Jonson are or have been few, but this volume should certainly serve one purpose of its issue, and lead to a better study of the works of a fine poet and a great genius of his time. Ben, like his nearly namesake the great Dr. Samuel, was inclined to be rough in manners, but could be gentle when he chose. Of the selections given, the ode to himself is curious, written when indignant at the failure of a piece, which, as he writes, was never acted, and but negligently played. Shakespeare was his cotemporary and intimate, and, besides the well-known verses to the portrait, another poem is given, “To the memory of my beloved Master William Shakespeare, and what he hath left us.” If, as the editor suggests, the extract—“Relaxations of Studies”—alludes to Shakespeare, he was probably a “real good fellow” of his time.

POPULAR COUNTY HISTORIES. A history of Lancashire. By Lieutenant-Colonel HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A. 8vo. London, 1894. (Stock.)

Colonel Fishwick, of all men, has been rightly chosen to produce this volume. Having undertaken it, he must have found it no easy task, first to select from known available material, and then to condense to the required compass. He has however done this well, perhaps not a little assisted by the determination to avoid all flights of imagination, and to make only statements which can be authenticated. The history of the county is instructively traced, beginning with the glacial and prehistoric periods, and then through the usual Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Norman times: afterwards come the domestic changes, with the castle and fortified house. There is much of interest in noting the progress of the later centuries—the changes in the spinning, to the full establishment of the cotton interest, and the effects of the introduction of steam. The last chapter, headed “Miscellany,” is not the least interesting, as drawing attention to various traditions and customs, the old crosses, and the legends connected with private houses. We learn that the marriage ring, the veil, the wedding gifts, even the cake, are Roman. Also from the same people come the funeral association of the cypress and yew, and the custom of sprinkling dust on the coffin, the flowers on the grave, and the black clothing. Written in an entertaining manner, this volume, as giving concisely a general view of the county easily read, should be

in the hands of every resident having any local attachment, as it will give full command of the subject, and, maybe, encourage the desire to preserve amidst the daily hurry and ever constant pressure for change.

BRITISH FAMILY NAMES, THEIR ORIGIN AND MEANING. With lists of Scandinavian, Frisian, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman names. By HENRY BARBER, M.D. (clerk.) 8vo. London, 1894. (Stock.)

Much attention and no little labour has been bestowed on this book. The author claims in his preface to have traced eight thousand names to their sources, but this is not very clear in the work. The names are considered under Nicknames, Clan, Place, Official, Trade, Christian, Foreign, and Foundling. Under the last, a child found in St. Mary Woolnoth, "in the alley between the church and the stocks," on the morning of St. John Baptist's day, was named John Before Day. In a short appendix, an alphabetical list of names is given as being under consideration wanting explanation; some we think could be explained, others certainly are puzzling. The list given of the personal names found in Domesday book, as also of the tenants in chief and the under-tenants, is most welcome and valuable.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE LIBRARY: being a classified collection of the chief contents of the *Gentleman's Magazine* from 1731 to 1868. Edited by George Laurence Gomme. *Ecclesiology.* Edited by F. A. Milne, M.A. 8vo. London, 1894. (Stock.)

Another valuable volume, gathered from that great mine the two hundred and twenty-four volumes of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The subject now is *Ecclesiology*, and the notes and information thereon as herein concentrated will be found most pleasant reading and full of interest. The arrangement is under the headings or divisions of early church building, church interiors, and church history. Purely parochial notes are omitted as belonging better to topography, but in the subdivisions there is much about organs, bells, inventories, stained glass, and figured tiles. Those who may be wishing to learn of the past on these subjects may well turn over these instructive pages, whilst others will find pleasant memories revived or refreshed by glancing through the many points or questions discussed or recorded. As usual, there is an excellent index.

IRISH DRUIDS AND OLD IRISH RELIGIONS. By James Bonwick, F.R.G.S. 8vo. London, 1894. (Low, Marston and Co.)

Mr. Bonwick, already known as the author of many works, has here given us a valuable and laborious compilation. Archæologically Ireland is not well known to us, from the many difficulties to be encountered in a visit, yet it is the most interesting of countries, its early history in many ways greatly differing. The book is divided into two parts. The subjects treated in Part I, forming thirteen headings or chapters, are the Irish Druids, Irish Bards, and Druidical magic, belief, and mysticism. There are also chapters on Isle of Man Druidism, and French and German Druidism. Part II is entitled "Early Religions of the Irish," and is divided into twenty-one heads,

including superstitions, gods, idol worship, serpent faith, sun, fire, stone, animal, and well worship, the shamrock as a sacred plant, and the Round Tower creed. The pig is placed among the sacred animals of Ireland. These selected headings will show how instructive and entertaining the book must be; the subjects are fascinating and reach farther than the headings imply. From nearly every chapter quotations could be made, but want of space forbids. The author is content with noting his facts or information, without strong comment or conjecture, thus leaving the reader's judgment free. The work shows evidence of great industry and reading. There is an excellent index, and following this is a list, filling three pages and a half, of the hundred and fifty authorities quoted or used, the authors' names and the titles of their works being clearly given.

CROMWELL'S SOLDIER'S BIBLE. (Elliot Stock, London, 1895.)

A reprint in facsimile of "The Souldier's Pocket Bible," compiled by Edmund Calamy, and issued for the use of the Commonwealth army in 1643. Two copies only of this remarkable work are known to exist. One is in the British Museum amongst the collection of pamphlets formed during the progress of the Civil War by George Thomason, a bookseller in London, and subsequently purchased and presented to the Museum by King George the Thurd. From this copy the facsimile has been made. The other copy is in the United States. The work itself is a small octavo of sixteen pages, inclusive of the title page; it bears the *imprimatur* of Edmund Calamy, the eminent nonjuror. Thomason has noted on his copy the date of "Aug. 3, 1643," which may be assumed to be that of the publication of the work. The passages of Scripture are from the Genevan version, and, with two exceptions only, are taken from the Old Testament. The facsimile is well printed and the leather binding is an excellent copy of the original.

