

tains a fine etching of Redgauntlet Castle, by which we suppose we are to understand Rockhall, the seat of the Laird of Lag.

It must be said that the quaint title of the book, with the weird headings of several of the chapters—"A Border Mystery," "The White Horse and the Blood-Red Saddle," "Guilty or Not Guilty?" "After the Storm," etc.—lead the reader to expect something more blood-curdling than he finds. When, however, he gets over his disappointment at matter more commonplace than he had looked for, he finds that the book is one of solid value, and is far from destitute of exciting incidents. He is at all events struck with the distinct impression that Lag made upon his generation, and the associations of horror that gathered about his memory. The "border mystery" of the first chapter describes the commemoration made annually of his evil deeds in the households of Dumfriesshire and Galloway—representing him as an evil beast with enormous proboscis searching for victims. An illustration of this bugaboo is given on page 11. On page 138 we have an excellent "instance of the process by which folk-tales are propagated," in showing how the popular detestation of him took form in pointing out "the acclivities where 'Auld Lag,' not in the execution of any judicial process, but simply for his own amusement, used to roll down Covenanters in barrels into which had been fixed spikes and knives—exactly in the Carthaginian fashion." Chapter IV., "Guilty or Not Guilty?" is a careful examination of the famous case of Margaret McLachlan and Margaret Wilson, alleged to have been fastened to stakes to be drowned by the advancing tide of the Solway—the worst of the many atrocities definitely charged upon the Laird of Lag. The author is not able to come to a conclusion as to the truth of the legend, which has no positively contemporary evidence, but only the distant memory of late survivors. The event is said to have taken place in 1685, and the story cannot be traced back of 1711. The controversy upon the subject is described at some length, and we think the author leans to the opinion that the story is true.

We have mentioned the beauty and elegance of the book. It is stated that only 500 copies were printed, of which 100 were reserved for the United States.

Syntax des Französischen und Englischen in vergleichender Darstellung. Von Dr. Friedrich Brinkmann. Vol. ii. Brunswick: F. Vieweg & Sohn; New York: B. Westermann & Co.

THIS new volume of Dr. Brinkmann's great grammatical work is entirely devoted to the treatment of verbs. We note the same research and untiring industry as in the preceding volume. It is "exhaustive of detail" even more than "suggestive of principles." The author is not content with giving the rules of syntax as laid down by English and French grammarians, and their application to the German language: he multiplies the examples to such an extent that the reader or student is apt to lose sight of the principle he wishes to illustrate. Thus, after reading fifty-eight pages on the use of "will and shall" and "would and should," one feels a little confused. So with the subjunctive mood, which takes up 118 pages. The tendency of the age is towards conciseness and clearness in scientific works, and no branch of science demands these qualities more imperatively than grammar. Ten or twelve authenticated examples for each rule may prove the author's vast learning; they do not make the proof of the rule any stronger—on the contrary.

Dr. Brinkmann, who appears so familiar with the French language, might have benefited by the wisdom of the old proverb: *Qui trop em-*

brasse mal étirent. He would have done well, too, to leave out from his ample vocabulary of verbs those of whose meaning he was uncertain, or to give the various meanings, properly illustrated, when there is more than one. *Veiller un malade*, "to watch a sick body," can hardly be called elegant or correct; an American would probably say, "to sit up with a sick person," and a Frenchman, *veiller auprès d'un malade*. "To prevent" is only one of the several meanings of *prévenir*, and an antiquated one at that; "to forestall" would be more correct, especially in connection with the example he gives from Voltaire: "Mahmoud voulait en vain prévenir le czar et l'empêcher d'entrer dans Derwent." The difference between *simuler* and *dissimuler* is as great as that which exists between simulation, "a pretence of what is not," and dissimulation, "a concealment of what is" (Sir R. Steele). To abscond is not simply *se cacher* (to hide), but *se soustraire* (*à des poursuites*), *disparaître*. No more is "to fret o. s." expressed by *se fâcher*; *se chagriner* or *se tourmenter* would have been better. "To struggle" gives an idea of exertion, of efforts made, also conveyed by the French verbs *lutter*, *se débattre*, *se démener*, whereas *se fatiguer*, *s'épuiser*, express the exhaustion resulting from the exertions or efforts, not these acts themselves. A Frenchman might "woo or court a lady" without screwing up his courage to the point of *la demander en mariage*, a final act which is generally understood to mean "to propose," in English.

We might multiply examples of this sort of loose translation, but that it might be construed as cavilling at the real merit of Dr. Brinkmann's work. Whatever is open to criticism in it is to be found in the superfluous matter which, if it were left out, would detract nothing from the importance of the book, but rather make it more valuable to the student, as the overlaid fruit tree gives more luscious fruit after it has been well pruned.

Fraternity Papers. By Edward Henry Elwell. Portland: Elwell, Pickard & Co. 1886.

THE Fraternity which gives a name to this volume was one of those clubs for intellectual improvement and recreation which are a common feature of mental life in our towns, and the subjects discussed by the author have the diversity which ordinarily characterizes the "reading circle," under whatever name it goes. The mode of treatment, too, is by generalization and by making abstracts from accessible authorities, as would be expected. The result is a book of essays, wide-ranging, readable, and useful within the limits of the original intention, but without any marked claim to public attention. An account of San Marco at Florence is a pleasant reminder of Fra Angelico, Savonarola, and Dante—of the kind much more interesting on the lips than in print, it is true, but done with intelligence and appreciation of mediæval types and circumstances. Essays upon the House, Dialect, Dreams, and Conversation, that follow, are less attractive; and the concluding papers on early American history in the Mississippi, White Mountains, Maine, and the Puritan settlements, are the freshest because of a tinge of local color in those which deal with the country about Portland. In the audience of the club and for the purposes of an evening's entertainment, the papers would meet with only praise from "the stranger within the gates," though a reviewer; but what is excellent in private may not rise above commonplace in the eye of a busy and wide-seeing public, and hence, without any disparagement, one may say that it is only in some pages of colonial history and tradition that

this volume has anything of novelty to the world at large.

Poems of the Law. Collected by J. Greenbag Croke, editor of 'Lyrics of the Law.' San Francisco: Sumner, Whitney & Co.

THIS collection contains for its two principal poems "The Conveyancer's Guide" and "The Pleader's Guide." These are poems of a deeply professional cast, and are reinforced by notes of no mean value. The former contains an account of the origin of society and government, which is an admirable parody of the views generally in vogue among lawyers until within a comparatively recent period. After a solemn invocation to the shades of Occam, Britton, Glanville, Roe, and other lights of the law, to assist his muse in celebrating the science of conveyancing, the poet describes the early state of society in which "all mankind were honest fellows," and then passes on to the event which broke up this peaceful state of things—the erection of the Tower of Babel:

"But when ambition, pride, and power
Set up the famous Babel tower,
(For the profession, happy hour!)
In Phaleg's time; then noise and strife
Destroy'd that simple mode of life;
The language which before all us'd,
Became a gibberish quite confus'd;
And as they jabber'd, swore and storm'd,
Each on his back the other turn'd.
What Japhet's grandson took for tillage,
Old Nimrod claimed by right of pillage;
And war was wag'd till fear and dread
Brought in a government instead."

"Jacob Omnium's Hoss" and "A Roman Lawyer in Jerusalem" are neither of them poems of the law in the same sense with these "Guides." They were written rather for the laity than for the profession, and hence have probably a wider reputation. Professional verse, like professional jokes, must necessarily have a limited audience; but within the limits such efforts as "The Conveyancer's Guide," or the more recent "Leading Cases," deserve, and will no doubt long enjoy, a high repute.

The Early History of Oxford. 727—1100. Preceded by a sketch of the mythical origin of the city and university. By James Parker, Hon. M.A., Oxon. Oxford: The Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan. 8vo, pp. 420.

MR. PARKER'S exhaustive treatise comes down to the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), the eleventh chapter containing a complete analysis of the portions of that document which relate to this city. The earlier history and the legendary accounts of Oxford are given in the first ten chapters; and an appendix contains all the passages from the original authorities which are cited in them, chapter by chapter. The book is, therefore, of the highest value to the student of early English history. For municipal history, which ought to be well illustrated by so important a town as this, it is of less service, inasmuch as the principal development in England hardly began until after the period in question. Appendix A consists of forty-three pages. Appendix B discusses the name of Oxford, and comes to the conclusion that it was probably not derived, as is usually assumed, from *Ox*, but from *Ouse*: "We seem to obtain very strong evidence for the probability of the name of Ouse or some cognate form of the river-word having been applied at one time to the Thames as it flows past Oxford. That a ford over that river should be called from the river is more likely to have been the case than from certain cattle which may have crossed the river." Appendix C treats of the coins struck at Oxford in King Alfred's reign, while D describes the plates given in the volume. These are, first, a facsimile, by the photozincographic process, of the first leaf of that part of the Domesday Survey which relates to Oxfordshire. This serves as a frontispiece. At the end com-

two maps—one, of the neighborhood of Oxford, to illustrate its early history (particularly interesting for the Roman roads); another, a plan of the early city. There are two indexes, one of persons and places, the other of authors cited. It is a pleasure to deal with a work so carefully and thoroughly done as this.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Aldrich, T. B. Prudence Palfrey. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cents.
A Memorial of Rufus Ellis. Prepared by a Committee. Cambridge: John Wilson & Son.
Beach, D. J. Plain Words on Our Lord's Work. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co. 50 cents.

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of the English Language, for Schools and Families. South Norwalk, Conn.: Golding Bros.
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Latin Poems of Leo XIII., Done into English Verse by the Jesuits of Woodstock College. Baltimore: J. Murphy & Co.
Lawson, J. D. The Adjudged Cases on Defences to Crime. In 5 vols. San Francisco: Sumner, Whitney & Co.
Little's Living Age. Vol. 169. April-June, 1886. Boston: Littell & Co.
Noailles, Duc de. Cent-Ans de République aux États-Unis. Paris: Calmann Lévy; New York: Christern.
Oliphant, Mrs. Effie Ogilvie. Harper & Bros. 25 cents.
Macmillan & Co. 50 cents.
Painter, F. V. N. A History of Education. [International Education Series.] D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
Reid, Elizabeth J. Judge Richard Reid: A Biography. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Co.
Winthrop, B. C. Addresses and Speeches on Various Occasions, from 1878 to 1886. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

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