

cusses these in detail. Most of them probably weighed but slightly with Lee. The real obstacle to a successful attack, in Lee's judgment, was the Federal artillery on the Stafford Heights, which commanded the plain where the Federal army was, and the river crossings, so completely as to render assault with a smaller force, upon well-posted and veteran troops, hopeless. There was nothing in the gallant attacks on Marye's Hill, continued until nightfall, or in Meade's vigorous push against Jackson on the other flank, to justify the conclusion that the Federal army was demoralized and would not have made a vigorous resistance to assault; and Lee believed that assaulting columns would be torn to pieces by the artillery north of the river which he could not neutralize. This same question came up again next spring, when Hooker threw Sedgwick across at the same place, to cover his own operations at Chancellorsville. The propriety of attacking Sedgwick was a matter of earnest consideration between Jackson and Lee, and, after a careful reconnoissance by the former, it was agreed by both that such a movement promised no good result. Our author thinks Lee was in error, and that, like Hannibal at the Trebia, he ought to have destroyed Burnside. This may be so, but it is very doubtful. It is certain that both Lee and Jackson, the two ablest Confederate commanders, twice judged such an attempt impossible.

*Reminiscences of a Country Journalist.* By Thomas Frost. Scribner & Welford.

MR. FROST has followed many occupations besides that of a country journalist, as is known to those who have read his previous volume of autobiography, to which the present one is supplementary. He began printer, and became one of that large and obscure staff of men who supply matter for cheap periodicals and keep the publishers' presses going; to adopt a phrase from his original calling, it would not be unfair to describe him as a tramp writer. Fiction was out of one of his fields, and in it he made his first successes; he also tried the drama, but with no other result than a sharp and frequently expressed feeling of indignation towards the readers of plays for the theatre. His various volumes, made up from other books, however, had good fortune and found both publishers and readers. He also wrote in connection with the press, and held editorial positions. The career of such a writer is rather of interest as an example than in itself. It was marked by great industry and versatility, and yet more by its uncertainty, while the sidelights thrown upon the ways of editors and publishers in those departments of literature which Mr. Frost cultivated, are dreary enough to warn any young author from his profession. He says his gains from journalism never exceeded £100 a year, and from journalism and literature combined never exceeded £200, "an amount which I received, in fact, for only one year, when I edited a periodical, wrote leaders and leaderettes for two newspapers, and was an occasional contributor to two or three other publications." In another place he remarks, "Of every half-dozen manuscripts which I have sent to the editors of magazines only one has been accepted, while three have been returned, and two neither returned nor accepted." Yet he was a practised, and often a successful writer, and, as we have said, the author of a large number of compiled books which had a sale.

These reminiscences are not altogether of his own affairs, but, being written in a very rambling way, allow innumerable episodes to give variety to the story without interrupting its very lazy course. Thus, at the beginning there are some delightful glimpses of the rural life of

Croydon, before London stretched out and absorbed its woods and green lanes and scattered its gypsies; and from chapter to chapter one comes upon anecdotes of English life and character of strong, unconscious realism. One is worth relating as an indication of how the world moves. It is told of Mr. Bean, the founder of the Liverpool *Albion*. Canning always desired to have an opportunity to correct the report of his speeches, and Mr. Bean would bring proofs to him at Liverpool, where he visited Col. Bolton. "Mrs. Bolton," our writer says, "had a great contempt for 'newspaper men,' and evinced it when Bean called upon Canning, at her house in Duke Street, by invariably desiring the servant to bring a chair from the kitchen for his use while he was engaged with the statesman. Bean is said to have felt the insult very deeply," Mr. Frost goes on, "but it does not appear that he ever resented it." There are many recollections of English journalists in the volume, and in particular of the Yorkshire Chartist writers, but all these are ill-digested and generally of trivial consequence. The circus performers, too, of whom Mr. Frost once wrote a book, come in for some mention, and are quoted as professing great contempt for Dickens's pictures of circus life. So, truly, one meets in this book many people of many minds, and perhaps not very well worth knowing; but the author himself, who is a candid man, is not the least entertaining of his characters. He is sixty-five years old, and, after a life of hard work, has nothing to show for it in the funds; he professes himself satisfied with having "done something, according to the measure of my capacities and opportunities, to keep society moving ever onward to a higher and better phase." Without regard to this philanthropic aim, he maintained his own independence of character and his self-respect through the trials and temptations of a precarious career; and one recognizes in him the old virtues of pluck and grit, as well as other qualities of "the true-born Englishman."

*The Letters of Cassiodorus: being a Condensed Translation of the Variæ Epistolæ of Magnus Aurelius Cassiodorus, Senator, with an Introduction, by Thomas Hodgkin, Fellow of University College, London, etc. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan. 8vo, pp. 560.*

MR. HODGKIN describes his condensed translation of the Letters of Cassiodorus as belonging "to that class of work which Prof. Max Müller happily characterized when he entitled two of his volumes 'Chips from a German Workshop.'" The chips in the present basket accumulated in the course of the preparation of the last two volumes of 'Italy and her Invaders' (reviewed in the *Nation* of May 13, 1886). The notes thus collected were intended to form the basis of a chapter in his history. The materials, however, he says, "were so manifold, so perplexing, so full of curious and unexpected detail, that I quite despaired of ever succeeding in the attempt to group them into one harmonious and artistic picture. Frankly, therefore, renouncing a task which is beyond my powers, I offer my notes for the perusal of the few readers who may care to study the mutual relations of the Roman and the Teutonic mind upon one another in the sixth century, and I ask these to accept the artist's assurance, 'The curtain is the picture.'"

The reader of these letters will obtain from them a knowledge of society and government in Italy during the first half of the sixth century such as few epochs of ancient history can present. The letters of Cicero and of Pliny suggest themselves at once to the mind, as similar in kind and very superior in quality; for their letters are not so insufferably rhetorical as those of Cassio-

dorus, and, moreover, they deal very largely with private concerns, which Cassiodorus hardly touches upon. These letters are almost entirely official, are very formal, and, even after Mr. Hodgkin has reduced their bulk by about one-half, are for the most part very long-winded and tiresome. But, such as they are, they are indispensable to any one who would study this period at first hand, and invaluable for the light they throw upon that most obscure event—the Germanic occupation of the Roman Empire.

Invaluable as they are, the reader of these letters is surprised at the small amount of direct information derived from them in regard to the organization of the government and the relations of the Romans to the Goths. Cassiodorus had in the highest degree the capacity—which belongs, we suppose, as well to his profession as to his age—of using a great many words and saying a very little. Even books vi and vii, which contain formulae for the several offices of the Empire, consist mainly of vague declamation, and give very little knowledge of the duties attached to these offices, except by way of incidental mention.

In certain other matters we receive a great deal of information, such as it is; and here is found a considerable part of the interest, if not of the value, of the book. The writer could not let go an opportunity of imparting his varied and curious information; much of it very curious, but not all reliable. Thus, on the occasion of condemning a criminal, he writes to the Prætorian Præfect as follows (book iii, letter 47): "He shall be banished to the Vulcanian [Lipari] Islands, there to live away from the paternal hearth, but ever in the midst of burning, like the Salamander, which is a small and subtle beast, of kin to the slippery worm, clothed with a yellow color. The substance of volcanoes, which is perpetually destroyed, is by the inextricable power of Nature perpetually renewed. The Vulcanian Islands are named from Vulcan, the god of fire, and burst into eruption on the day when Hannibal took poison at the court of Prusias. It is especially wonderful that a mountain kindling into such a multitude of flames should yet be half hidden by the waves of the sea." There are a number of other similar essays, on the chameleon (p. 284), on the gout (p. 440) and consumption (p. 463), on elephants (p. 442), on paper (p. 483), on the water at Ravenna, which appears to have been as bad then as now (p. 286).

Perhaps as interesting a piece of special information as any is found in letter 4 of book ix, in regard to the family which, at its own request, had been relieved of the rank of *curialis*. "Re-mitted to the ranks of [mere] Possessores, they will now be liable to the same demands which formerly [as members of the Curia] they made upon others." Five books out of twelve consist of letters written in the name of Theodoric, and bear constant testimony to his justice and humanity.

*The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland, from the Twelfth to the Eighteenth Century.* By David MacGibbon and Thomas Ross, Architects. Vol. I. Edinburgh: David Douglas. 1887. 8vo, pp. xvi, 584.

MESSRS. MACGIBBON AND ROSS'S book is a very welcome one. The only other we know which in any considerable degree covers the same subject is Billings's 'Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland.' But, though that is as excellent in its kind as all his work is, its fine plates show the examples only in their picturesque aspects. The paucity of views, the absence of plans and details, make the volumes very inadequate for professional use; the text, which is mainly historical and antiquarian, gives no full descriptions, and makes no attempt at compara-

tive study. This book, on the other hand, is thoroughly professional. The subject is one in which only a Scotch antiquarian could bring the authors to book on questions of detail; but their work is done with method and intelligence, with every appearance of accuracy and of thorough familiarity with the subject.

The first volume, now presented, contains about a hundred examples of Scottish castles and residences, chronologically classed, described in detail, and illustrated with great fulness, from the earliest that remain down to the middle of the sixteenth century. It is prefaced by a good summary of the parallel development of military architecture in France and England. The division into periods or the classification that accompanies it may strike one as a little arbitrary—perhaps any positive division in a series of so gradual development would appear so; yet in tracing out the examples of such a development it is essential to pause at intervals to survey the field. It is always a question in systematic study of architecture whether, in buildings which include the structures of different periods, the description of their parts shall be assigned each to its own period, or whether the full discussion of a building shall be given with the period to which its most important features belong. There is temptation to follow the first method for the sake of logical cohesion; but in a book which, like this, is of the nature of a hand-book, the authors have done well, we think, to follow the second plan. Many books of like scope have been nearly ruined for consultation by the dispersion of their examples in fragments.

Scotland's chronic hostility to England and preference for Continental alliances made her a meeting-ground for various influences in architectural style as well as in politics. While she could not help taking lessons in building from the neighbor at her elbow, her segregation from her, or the obstinacy that led to it, shows curiously in her persistence in certain fashions of building, and in the slowness of her progress, as well as in the appearance at various intervals of symptoms of foreign influences—Scandinavian, French, and even Spanish. We find in the examples here given illustrations of Scotch conservatism in certain architectural forms which are adhered to with striking pertinacity—for instance, the belated round arch, the stepped gable, the square (or rather oblong) keep. It is seen equally in the avoidance of certain other forms, for instance, the tower of horse-shoe plan, common in Roman fortification and in mediæval castles and enclosures in France, or the round tower with a salient angle or keel, of which there is a solitary example in Borthwick Castle. The comparative poverty of the Scottish nobles, their somewhat backward civilization, and the relative fixity of military architecture, which is always slower to change than ecclesiastical, make this conservatism more apparent in the castles than in the churches of their country. Messrs. MacGibbon and Ross trace the course of architecture of the latter in a clear-headed fashion, with a moderation of statement and an absence of fads which is very agreeable, and not always found in antiquarian writers. These five or six hundred pages and almost as many illustrations bear witness to a great amount of laborious research.

The abundant illustrations are reproductions of pen-drawings, of which the most spirited bear the initials D. M. G. Of course these lack the picturesque beauty, often somewhat forced, of Billings's plates, and their smaller scale makes them less graphic in detail, but their professional character appears in their straightforward clearness as well as in their choice and fulness. A comparison of them with those of Billings where they represent the same subject is creditable to

the substantial accuracy of both, though one finds occasionally a variation in proportions, and once in a while a discrepancy of more significance, as where, in a tower-room of Dirleton Castle, Billings represents the vaulting with ribs which our authors, no doubt with truth, omit. Indeed, juxtaposition of both of these authorities with Dollman's detailed and apparently accurate drawings, in the examples which all three of them have illustrated, while it displays an essential agreement, is also now and then a witness to the difficulty which every investigator meets in architectural research as in all other departments of human testimony—the difficulty of getting at absolute truth in small particulars from a variety of authorities. Comparison with Billings's plates, moreover, shows us painfully in many cases the progress of dilapidation since his day, and sometimes of alteration, reminding us that this new record, well made and made once for all, has not been undertaken too soon. We hope that the completion of it will not wait long.

*Grundriss der romanischen Philologie, unter Mitwirkung von fünfundzwanzig Fachgenossen herausgegeben von Gustav Gröber, Professor in Strassburg. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner. 8vo.*

PROF. GRÖBER'S series is calculated to embrace six good-sized volumes, and undertakes to sketch in detail the Romance languages, their historic evolution and method of study, more exhaustively and comprehensively than has ever been attempted before. Since it is impossible that one man should possess such an enormous mass of well-digested learning, and write it down with his own hands, the editor has judiciously selected twenty-five competent coworkers in the various branches. To himself Gröber reserved the composition of the introduction and other articles of more generic import, together with a special article on French and another on Latin literature. Literature is, of course, in a Cyclopædia of Philology, as important a matter as the languages themselves; and Gröber has accordingly devised a separate article for each of the eight principal Romance languages. The wide scientific scope taken by Gröber's series further appears from the following treatises intended to be incorporated into the body of the work: An article on elements adopted from foreign languages; another upon the influence of indigenous languages, as Iberic, Celtic, Ancient Italic, on Romance languages; one on the use of Latin in Romance-speaking countries (by W. Meyer). A history of civilization among the Romance nations will be furnished by A. Schultz; their political history is to be dealt with by Scheffer-Boichorst. Even the history of plastic art and music is not omitted, and will conclude the last volume, though poetry is treated of in earlier and separate chapters together with stylistic art.

The propædæutic and methodic portion of the series lies complete before us in the first number, and permits a favorable augury for the whole. Linguistic inquiry is kept altogether separate from philologic research, and the method of the latter has been outlined by Prof. A. Tobler of Berlin. As for the sources of Romance philology, the oral are kept distinct from the literary preserved in script. W. Schum, who has discoursed upon the latter, also presents a full and detailed system of palæography, evidently based on the author's own experience. On page 149 Gröber mentions as the end and scope of Romance philology "scientific research concerning Romance speech, of which the origin has, in the lapse of centuries, become incomprehensible." The countries lying beyond the limits of Romance speech, as Northern Europe, have contributed powerfully to the study of these languages, and Ger-

many more than others, for her scholars first applied the comparative method of Bopp to these and all other tongues, whether of literary or illiterate nations. It is touching to read the well-deserved homage paid by the editor to the immortal merits of W. Schlegel and Diez (pp. 90-91). On the other hand, it is exhilarating, with our present ideas of linguistics, to follow up the first attempts in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to derive certain French terms from Greek, as was done by Budé, Du Bois, Péron, and others, and to notice how gradually an improvement took place in this line through the writings of Pasquier, De Caseneuve, Chastelain, and especially of the celebrated Ménage, the father of modern French etymology.

The earlier portion of the second number (pp. 283-414) is devoted to seven treatises upon the languages spoken in various European countries prior to the advent or formation of the Romance tongues now prevalent. The extent to which these earlier languages have influenced the latter is also made the object of careful investigation. In his article upon the Celtic dialects of Gaul, E. Windisch states his opinion that in middle and northern France the Celtic lost its hold between the third and the fifth centuries after Christ, while Aquitania and "the Carbonensis province" had been thoroughly Romanized at a much earlier period. G. Gerland, Professor of Ethnology in Strassburg, confirms the result of former investigators, that the Basques of our days are the direct descendants of the Iberi at the beginning of our era, and that they formerly held a much larger territory than they do now. In his article on the ancient languages of Italy, W. Deecke counts the Etruscan among the Italic languages, and hence regards it as cognate with Latin, Umbrian, and Oscan. M. Gaster discusses the non-Latin elements in the Rumanic (or Wallachian) vocabulary, and F. Kluge does the same for the Germanic terms found in the Rumanic languages.

With another section of the book begins the discussion of the grammatic elements of the languages in question. This section is introduced by their scientific classification at the hands of the editor. Of the three dialects of Rumanic, only one is thoroughly studied by H. Tiktin, for the two others have never furnished enough materials to make full study possible. In the Alpine ridge Rhetoromanc is spoken in more than twenty narrowly circumscribed dialectic forms, but only four of them have developed into something that can be called a literary language; these are exhaustively treated, though only in their grammatical aspect, by Th. Gartner. The second number breaks off abruptly in the midst of the interesting article on the Italian language, and it is expected that the third number will form the completion of the first volume.

We look forward with great interest to the continuation of this useful series, which is printed in rather small Roman type, though handsomely, and contains all the literary quotations needful to those who desire to undertake studies subsidiary to the information contained in the 'Grundriss,' as the editor modestly calls his cyclopædia.

*Histoire de l'Art dans la Flandre, l'Artois, et le Hainaut avant le xve siècle. Par M. le comte Dehaisnes. Lille. 1886. 3 vols., 4to.*

It is much to be wished that the reverend author of this valuable treatise had included Brabant in the provinces to the history of whose arts he has devoted so many years of his life. As it is, however, he has produced a work of the first importance, which must certainly take its place upon the shelves that are fortunate enough to carry the Comte de Laborde's 'Ducs de Bourgogne' and