And not only (to make an end of fault-finding), not only has Mr. Wilson made himself a mouthpiece for all that the per- servid genius of the Scots has ever found to say in praise of itself, but he has been somewhat hasty and inexact in his historical en- quiries. Certainly, in 1414, the English King Henry IV. did not take James I. along with him on his second expedition to France. If there were no other reason, Henry IV. had then been some time dead. And certainly Mr. Wilson ought not to have printed Lapraik's "When I upon thy bosom lean." Certain there being bad verses, what- ever Burns may have thought. And besides, good or bad, they are not Lapraik's. They are a bungling plagiarism from an English piece in the Weekly Magazine; and the really lamentable manner in which they have suffered in the stealing is the last article in the charge against

David old kind chief
Abbot Munkirk."

We have him convicted on two counts; not being able to write verse himself, and not knowing what was good in other people's verses. Again, the fable of the "Eagle and Robin Redbreast" should certainly have appeared in the collection, but as certainly, I apprehend, should not have appeared which the name of the author. "A Soot" was the signature with which Allan Ramsay chose to send abroad his forgeries; it con- tains, it will be seen, his initials and a declaration of his nationality which is character- istic of the race. The fable in question, which is here attributed to the "Scottish Annals," and the "Vision of Wellington," has been with July, 1839, Burns and the selections from Ramsay, both appeared for the first time in the Eecoreen under the same signature of Ar. Scot. And, unless Mr. Grant Wilson has some other light unknown to me upon the matter, I cannot understand upon what principle he has separated Burns from the Soot, or both by Ramsay. There is no third way. And, as a matter of fact, I believe they are both Ramsay's. But Mr. Grant Wilson is not without qualifications for the task he has set him- self to do. Of course, all anthologies make bad blood. Of course, one is far more sorry for the good things left out, than pleased that so many have been put in. I am in- consolable for Drummond's sonnet, beginning "In vain I haunt the cold and silent springs." Where is "Auld Lang Syne?" What strange blindness fell upon Mr. Wilson when he began to make his selections out of Scott and Burns, and end them in the manner of the author of the Eecoreen?"1"

in the Scotch spirit; these others were born Scots, but aped the English manner just well enough to fall between two stools. And, indeed, they will not long detain the reader—they are so dead and so dead-heavy—and he will pass on to what is genuinely national in the collection, to the specimens of that merry, coarse, and somewhat prosaic poetry which began with James I. and is yet scarcely cold.

"Christ's Kirk on the Green" is a direct descendant of the Canterbury Tales, and its best successors are all more or less in the same vein. A clear stream of narration, a plentiful scarcity of serious images and similes, a sort of dry slyness, a gross, un- finishing realism in humorous fiction or description—these are notes common to almost all that is good in Scotch poetry. Even when an author seeks to move pity, it is not by strong language that he sets about the task, but by dramatic truth. In the simplest words, he makes his characters say what they might have said and do what they might have done. He relies entirely on the inherent pathos of the situation. He does not seek to heighten or idealize. He is no Shakespeare, only a sort of provincial Boccace- cio at the middle ages.

All this is fairly well illustrated in the volume under review. Here also the reader will find that gem of a poem, Alexander Hume's "Day Estivall." In speaking of such work, one must beware of the Grant-Wilson school of oratory. Let an earnest recommendation here suffice.

A point of curiosity is the rest of Burns's ode about Wellington, some lines of which appear already in his Correspondence. It is a very poor performance, but interesting as another testimony to the profound sympathy of Burns for all democratic movements. Why does Mr. Wilson tell us no more about the history of the piece; and why (since we are at flank-finding and in) do we not give explicit notice when a piece is origin- al and when it is a translation from Galtie. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

THE SUEZ CANAL.


(Second Notice.)

The second period, which is by far the longest, extending through nearly all 1854, 1855, and 1856, is the greatest part of the work. It is by no means the most important or the most interesting; still it deserves careful study by the historian of the period, and by those whose fate may be to apply for similar concessions. M. de Lesseps, who seems to have lived once the railway and in the stores of a work ka-narrowly escaping shipwreck, ranged over the whole of Europe, Scandinavia alone excepted. His conviction evidently was that nothing could be done without his personal influence to correct the apathy of the public, in presence of such absorbing eventualities as the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. At the same time we can-
and the journal abounds in interest. "M. Mac-Cleod," the chief engineer for England, calculates that Europe could now build for 1,000,000, a monument equal to the largest pyramid of Gizeh; and that for only eight times that sum (200,000,000 francs) he could finish the Suez Canal, which represents in excavation and transport of earth, thirty times the amount of work. Verily, the age of wonders!

The next year opens with an international note, announcing that the commission, after finishing its labours—in less than a fortnight—has sent in the report to the Viceroy. The Bouquet final was the important discovery of a new country, by Sir George Levett, which afterwards took the place of the dangerous Persian Gulf. The triumph was celebrated in heaven by another signe de l'alliance, in other words a rainbow whose "tender colours gradually assumed more vivid hues; and, rising gradually from its extreme point in the west, ended by forming a complete arch over the horizon," which had been predicted to him by his mother-in-law, and provided with his two documents, the firman and the second report, M. de Lassos, after nearly two months and a half in Egypt, again turned his face northwards, for faire à l'Église partout assise par l'indigence, a residence in Scotland (after des tires en forêt, and the second

The last notable document in the first volume is that entitled "Description sommaire de l'Egypte et de l'histoire de Suez." The geological part considers all lower and middle Egypt to be a tertiary formation, whilst the Italian savants would make it of much later date, the newer Miocene. In this book of 1856—58 we may be more succinct. The first twenty-five pages relate a trip in which the project accompanied the Viceroy to the White Nile as far as Khartoum and the second cataract; it begins badly with setting fire to the concessionnaire's mosquito-curtains, and burning him severely; but he rejoices at its end having said his "dieu au mois de sort." This part ends with orders issued by the Viceroy to the governors of the Sudan, Senaar, Kordofan, and other provinces, regulating the taxation and ameliorating the condition of the Fellahs. Nothing can be more amiable of patriarchal; but, we ask, who was to carry them out? The frightful death of Mr. Green at the expiration of a year's commentary upon this enlightened policy.

M. de Lassos again runs over to London and Paris, where he publishes Observations hydrographiques dans la baie de Péloé; it contained the reports and logs-books of Captain Philpott, who had ridden out six months on the Egyptian corvette—a practical reply to certain objectors. He now works Dr. H. Pius IX. and the Cardinals, and so true a son of the Church is he that the Patriarchs of Syria and Palestine are duly "squared." A note addressed to M. Elie de Beaumont (pp. 50-65) in reply to certain questions of the Academy of Sciences, and afterwards published in the Royal Geographical Society he received une note d'apologie des dissections, which were renewed at the end of his "speech;" and in Paris he enlisted the sympathies of the Académie des Sciences; and in Vienna he obtained the favourable opinion of the "illustrious doyen of diplomacy," Prince Metternich, then in his eighty-fourth year. After thus advocating the "grand entreprise," he returned to Egypt in mid-July, 1856.

At Alexandria he issued his report to the Viceroy concerning the Fellahs to be employed by the Company, and nothing can be more thoughtless or more humane: the whole meetings greet him as a friend to humanity and commerce. But again Lord Palmerston is the bitter drop in his cup of sweets, and a very pretty quarrel presently results from the reply in the House of that irrepressible Minister to Mr. H. Berkeley, M.P. His lordship's triumphant speech contre le Canal de Suez culminates in the debate of June 1, 1858. Shortly after his administration had been replaced by that of the late Lord Derby, Mr. 96oebuck, with abundant strong language, proposes, and Mr. Milner Gibson second, what seems to be a very moderate motion, namely, "that in the opinion of this House, the power and influence of this country ought not to be used in order to induce the Sultan to withhold his assent to the project of making a canal across the Isthmus of Suez." Mr. Fitzgerald opposes a censure which in reality suggested want of confidence, and which committed the House to an indirect support of the enterprise. Then Lord Palmerston, the last of the great men, stands up, and in the diplomatic mask, and openly declares that the measure, however beneficial to Egypt, is likely to compromise the safety of Turkey. The Conservatives unhesitatingly adopt this view of the question, and, despite the eloquence of Lord John Russell and the "chaff" of Mr. Bright, the motion is rejected, after a prolonged debate. Thus, the Suez Canal was in 1855—58.

Meanwhile the Times had also declared a violent hostility; Mr. R. Stephenson mildly but persistently maintained his opinion, and M. de Lassos, having embarked at Trieste, came to the conclusion that le gouvernement Anglais, représentant un peuple puissant, civilisé, et loyal, n'a pas honte d'employer les moyens des fables et des barbares, c'est à dire l'hypocrisie et la ruse, et de cacher sa propre opposition à l'abri d'une porte qu'elle croit pouvoir ouvrir ou fermer à son gré. At Constantinople Ali Pasha cannot dissemble his impotence; the Sultan is reported to be personally favourable, but he is, as usual, little more than a political prisoner. And there the matter remains.

The third and last of the drama sees (July 28, 1858) the "interests of the concessionnaire and the Company placed under the infallible protection of the Emperor of the French." The resolution to ignore the ratification of the Porte is approved by the Ambassadors of Russia and Austria, and by the Ministers of Prussia and Spain. The cause is virtually won, and sought remains but to sign the Treaty at the banquet at Odessa and at Marseilles, and at receptions in Barcelona and elsewhere. Mr. Stephenson is finally knocked down by M. Paliocarpa, and the rival English and French projects are heavily jumped upon.

The beginning of the end is entitled "Souscription publique," followed by a list of the agents, correspondents, and the bankers of" "Compagnie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez." The 25,000 French shares are taken up at once; and the direct holders must long have regretted the day; a coup d'œil at the subscribing classes is rightly characterised as a curious study of the moral,

* M. de Lassos gives (vol. ii. pp. 233, 256) the names of the minority; the Pall Mall Budget has lately printed (December 31, 1875) those of the leaders of the majority.
The last volume of Sir John Kaye’s deeply interesting narrative of the Sepoy War left the reader in the camp before Delhi. Nicholson had joined; the smart affair at Loddow was over, and now the dash of victory at Najafgarh; and the curtain had fallen on a devoted army preparing for the assault on the stronghold of Mughal royalty and prestige. More than five years have elapsed since the publication of that section of the record: an interval of trying length to those who awaited the promised sequel, and unfavourable to those who cater for the expectant. Fortunately, the power of the writer is equal to the theme; and no sooner is the narrative resumed than we are again willingly carried away to the hot plains of the far East, and, as it were, unwittingly absorbed in the stirring events of the period, which, with all its clouds of bitter sadness, is still a period of elevation of national and individual honour. The dramatic incident, appreciative analysis, and fascinating style of the War in Afghanistan are credentials which cannot be lightly regarded by the reading public, and a remembrance of these will naturally ensure a fair augury to forthcoming volumes by the same author. But the Sepoy War may safely rest upon its own merits and the intrinsic interest of the scenes it describes—scenes which have won the admiring attention of other than English reviewers. It was neither an Englishman nor a Protestant who, in bearing high contemporary witness to the general conduct of the “poignée d’Anglais” concerned, enlouged in the following terms the martyrs to patriotism and order:—“Victimes d’une lutte engagée entre la civilisation et la barbarie, ils ne sont étrangers à aucun peuple chrétien; tous peuvent les admirer sans restriction et sans réserve. Ils font honneur à l’espèce humaine.”

The account told is a long one, though the period to which it is limited is only one rather of months than years. It may be said to have commenced fairly in chapter IV. of Book iii., or to take up about a fifth of the first volume, closing in May, 1857. The second volume, similarly divided into three books, reaches into August of that year, but is only described as covering its month preceding. The third, or volume under review, only carries on the narrative to September—for the marginal mention of 1858 (pp. 400-1-2) refers to an episode of individual suffering and deliverance distinct from the thread of narration. To mature the full and comprehensive view so extensive an area, it would be difficult to suggest a disposition of data finer than that which has been adopted. The panorama is so vast and intricate that it becomes essential, in the interests of the spectator, not only to arrest the progress but carry conviction to the mind picture into geographical parts and make a

* Décès sur l’Inde, par un Politien Premier, par le Comte de Moustier, l’un des garants de l’Académie Française, p. 49 (London: Jeffs, 1858).