THE ATHENÆUM

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in the Heidelberg Library and of MSS. in other libraries.

PROF. RUTLER informs us that his article on the "Moral" in which appeared in the University College of Wales Magazine, had not, as we supposed, been previously printed elsewhere.

Our Lisbon Correspondent writes:

"The new translation of the Lusidity of Camoes, the French edition which I have mentioned before, is now complete in the MS. It is written in the Spenserian stanzas, is very literal, and the versification is elegant, the style being good and thorough. Mr. Duff is a gentleman advanced in years, who has been a student all his life, and knows both the Portuguese and English languages intimately, having received, as he says, a classical education in England, and having resided since then in Portugal. Many competent judges say this translation will leave nothing to be desired. As Mr. Duff has been a long time over the work, and has done it so assuredly, he is a great admirer of Camoes. The book will be printed at the Lisbon National Press, with new type, on fine paper, and will contain portraits of many of the Portuguese worthies mentioned in the text. The volume will be a royal octavo; it will be one and a half bounds, and will be issued in London by Messrs. Chatto & Windus, and in Philadelphia by Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. The book is to be issued insetts, an English journal, published in Lisbon, speaks very favorably of the work, and quotes several admirable stanzas.

Thus, 1, I have notes in MS. translation of Camoes by Capt. Burtn, the celebrated traveller, another by Mr. Hewitt, the American journalist of Rio de Janeiro, and God knows how many others. Of a variety, some of the masters never die, and the genius of Camoes blossoms like an alder after the lapse of many years. We may be excused if we express some belief in the old adage, "It never rains but it pours."

Capt. Burton's translation is, we are glad to say, in type.

A correspondent has been good enough to send a much better, as any rate more grammatical, version of the quadrain we quoted last week from Mr. Hamilton's book on the Laureates:

[Quoted text]

That learned genealogist Col. Chester points out, in a letter to us, that Mr. Hamilton is wrong in saying Colley Cibber was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Mr. BLANCHARD JERROLD writes us to refer with reference to the Congress of Men of Letters of All Nations, which it is proposed by the International Literary Association shall meet in London in June, 1879:

"The United States, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Holland, Russia, and Poland, and Switzerland are already adopting measures in order to be worthy represented in the Association, and have sent in lists of delegates. The Association is in course of consolidation under the care of a select executive, and is preparing to present to the Congress in London next a well considered scheme of international literary machinery, devised to protect the rights of authors all over the world and to create a general spirit de corps. Full details of the work of the Congress will be found in the Bulletin of the Association, a copy of which I shall be happy to address to any correspondent — being a man of letters or a journalist— who may desire a short account of the views of the British authors or journalists who may wish to join the Association, and to assist in receiving the gens de lettres from all parts of Europe who have promised to attend a Congress which must request that all preliminary communications may be by letter only."

Mr. Jerrold's address is 5, Carlton Chambers, Regent Street.

SCIENCE

GOLD IN MIDEAN.

NICEUS, the traveller, who was not wholly ignorant of Arabic literature, should have been better informed when he asserted "the precious metals are abundant in Arabia, which has no mines either of gold or silver" (Description of the Arabs," p. 124, Amsterdam, 1774); and as Niebuhr's reputation rose high, the latter has followed the former notices upon his authorities.

Moses (b.c. 1452) mentions, among the metals which were purified by fire after being plundered from the Egyptians, gold and silver are of the greatest importance considering the part it plays in the bronze arms, implements, and instruments of ancient nations. According to Strabo, xx, 2, we found among the metals besides tin—gold, silver, brass, copper ( Kore), iron, and lead. All these metals were rediscovered by the second and last expedition to Midian.

Rasmess III. (b.c. 1200) of the twentieth dynasty, in the eleventh year of his reign, opened the great mines of copper in the land of Akhats (Akhab). According to the Harris papyri (Bibl. Museum), translated by Eisenlohr, the ore was yellow as gold (pristic copper), while the first diggings had been only successful with copper ore (=celsocyllis). You will find the description in Dr. Beke's Belie in Sind, and my last work, The Land of Midian (Revised), has copied the original hieroglyph.

Dionysius Apaurus, a Greek geographer of Augustus's days, and interesting to us because he is the first classical authority of gold treasures, describes of Arabia between the Zabas and in the Nabathean country, "Idoqes ipos regio tantis buqueque lucubatis, ut eis montibusurus orum etis, et simulca convivium argenteum, succorum ripa Thymianae et fragrantis herbis rosice, sique qui ibi vastat maxima postuis quo sedest aurum, ut institui mensa montis "auris ascendat, et aere quam multis mammis auris." Verum qui primam Libani montis frontem tenet, his autem qui Nabatei sunt appellatis. From this it is evident that Northern Arabia was most.

(Translation by the Verones Antonius Becharia, and printed by Henriques Paulus as Bas, a. 1564, p. 530.)


Pomponius Mela, Bishop of Phoca, who was present at the Council of Ephesus in a.d. 449, declares that he had seen the gold and silver of the mines of the Western Arabic lands. Phoca in the Pannon or the Pannon of the Book of Nymours (xxii. 42), a place lying four miles south of Dedan, between Zor and Petra, and also Arabea Petrae, (Eden), to Arabia Petrae. He says, "Sunt autem montes auris fertili in deserio procul undae, ubi fluminibus Achor (Horeb, the so-called Mount Sinai), in quo primum in Fabricam submiferit innum, succorum et metallis auris Phocaeos also (He also calls copper "metalum Fenium"); qui modo tempero corpasti; montes venientis auris plenos olim fuisse viventes existant." Eusebius of Cesarea, the "Father of Ecclesiastical History" (a.d. 290-340), in his account of the Christian missions of Maximinus (a.d. 303-310), states that many Christians were condemned to the mines, "ad metallas eramda damnati sunt"; and "Persae provincia omnes aedificit argento, quos signum Galilaeae et Palaestinae damnativi" (De Martyr. Palet., cap. 7).

That the Arabs worked the gold mines of Egypt we know from Ebreis; from Abu'di, and from the Cahil Ebreis. The book of the Pothok El-Mutakki 'Allah, a.d. 928. The old diggings have been admirably described by Liinani (de Bellonda) and others, and some of these have only been explored by the Egyptian staff. In my last volumes I have attempted to prove that those of North-old Western Arabia were also worked, and that tellings have been washed, perhaps, even in the present day.

Thus we have reason to believe that the mines of Midian are not only known to the world for the last 2,500, and possibly for 3,000 years. You will ask, Has not the country been exhausted? I reply, Not one-thousandth part of the quartz reefs has been examined, nor is it even probable that they have all been explored, appearing to be connected with the Harah or great plutonic band subending the so-called "Great Serpent," in the mountains that would place 9 miles south of Akhab along the eastern coast of the gulf; the 93 miles from the northern head and some 3 miles inland from the gulf. A third would be near the Jebel el-Abyus ("White Mountain"), the great vein of quartz described in the excitations of Dionysius, "siqui ibi vastat maxima postuis quo sedest aurum, ut institui mensa montis "auris ascendat, et aere quam multis mammis auris." Verum qui primam Libani montis frontem tenet, his autem qui Nabatei sunt appellatis. From this it is evident that Northern Arabia was most."

A correspondent who visited Akhab in 1864, and explored the three months over North-western Arabia, informs me that he considers Midian a gold-field par excellence. The richest reefs would be in the neighbourhood of the Wadi el-Abbe ("White Mountain"), and, if all now extinct, appear to have been connected with the Harah or great plutonic band subending the so-called "Great Serpent," in the mountains. The fourth, and last great reef lies 5 miles inland and 30 miles south of the entrance of the Gulf of Akhab. This would place in the list, green quartz, but the others contain the metal diffused in gypsophylist.
some engineering works of a high class and of the utmost value.

SOCIETIES.

ROTAI.—Jan. 16.—W. Spotiswoode, Esq., M.A., President, in the chair. The following papers were read:—On some Points connected with the Anatomy of the Skin, and 'On Hyaline Embryology,' by Dr. W. E. Goodrich; and Reagents and observed in the Examination of Carotid Tumour of the Lower Jaw, by Dr. G. T. Johnson, in a Monumental Ossuary Test giving Reduction without Precipitation, by Dr. Pav'ty. —On the Effect of Strong Induction Currents upon the Structure of the Silver Electrode, by E. W. Godwin. Concluding Observations on the Oscilometer System of Meduses, by Mr. G. J. Romanes.

ABSTRACT.—Jan. 20.—Sir H. C. Rawlinson, President, in the chair. The Rev. Prof. Legge read the first part of a paper 'On the Principles of Composition in Chinese derived from the Nature of the Written Characters,' in which he showed the truth of what has been repeatedly stated, viz., that the Chinese alphabet is too complex and far from that the student who wishes either to write or speak this language must dismiss from his mind all ideas of composition in the principle of grammar which govern alphabetic languages. Having exhibited the six principles of formation on which the Chinese characters are based, he exhibited the native division of the characters into Shih and Hwei, or full, substantial, and empty, showing that this division had been misunderstood by all who have written on the Chinese language from Pernau downwards; in that it regards the structural significance of the characters, and cannot, therefore, be applied if it was a grammatical distinction of them. Prof. Legge then treated of Chinese literature as written in the ancient, the literary, and the colloquial styles, and illustrated this account of the Chinese language, which to the writer is of the most interesting. These articles are of rare occurrence in England. —Mr. Morgan read the fifth part of his paper 'On the recent discoveries in the site of the Roman army in Britain in the first and second centuries, the positions being indicated by numerous evidences which were passed in review, and on which were based the conclusions which afford additional information.'—The third paper was by Mr. W. C. Little, who traced the history of the Roman road across the geology and social life of the people, and described its construction of gravel upon a layer of branches. It is generally twenty-five feet wide.

NUMISMATIC.—Jan. 16.—J. Evans, Esq., D.C.L., President, in the chair. The Hon. W. Premanaste and the Hon. M. George Talbot were elected Members. —Mr. Evans exhibited a denarius of Sycasrus in a very fine state of preservation, the obverse of which was designed by Bhard, and signed by Bauduct, and Mr. Cochrane-Patrick communicated a paper on some Mint Accounts of the kingdom of Scotland, including the account of each face of the coin, with punched or engraved triangles in three rows. Mr. Beck also exhibited, by permission of Sir H. W. Beck, a monumental effigy in silver repoussé upon the tomb of a bearded friar, in memory of Lydian, daughter of Henry Wharton, of London, and wife of John Collier, son of Mr. R. Collier, of Ongar. She was born Nov. 20, 1648, and died May 13, 1673. Their two infant daughters, Lydia (ob. 1671) and Hester (ob. 1673), are also figured, one in a swaddling-cloth, the other as a girl habited as Times, with a scythe and hour-glass.

Can this be a copy of a larger monument in some chantry in Oxfordshire!—Mr. J. C. Robinson exhibited a processional cross, English, of the beginning of the work of the fifteenth century. The circular medallions at the ends of the arms, enrolling emblems of the virtues of the celeste, are the usual, and as seen in a drawing of a precisely similar cross at Thuxton (Church, Lancashire, exhibited by Mr. Mackendrew), are of engraving, in one of the figures, the lines filled in. Mr. Robinson also exhibited two silver-gilt figures, in repoussé work, which were stated to have formed part of a famous shrine or 'custodia' in the Choir of Basle, in Switzerland, in the Church of the Boccardi family. —Mr. A. Heales communicated an account of some sepulchral remains at Tipton, in the county of Salop, on the Brerock, and read a paper 'On the Origin of the Office of the Advocate-General.'

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Jan. 16.—T. Morgan, Esq., in the chair. —The Rev. Chandler reported the discovery of the altar-shab of the late Bishop of Wakefield Church on the Cheesborough near Chesterfield. He exhibited six pillars, fragments of which were shown.—Dr. Woodhouse, as a warning to antiquaries, exhibited a large collection of forged artifacts. —Mr. Loftus Beeston exhibited some Roman jug of modern date, but having the form and colouring of early times, being an example of the persistence of ancient types in the country. —Mr. G. Hills reported that several fragments of Roman date had been found in Chester, Cheshire, indicating the prior existence of Roman buildings and settlements. He exhibited two small terebrants and Romanware, and spoke of flue tiles having been found.—Mr. Hills then read the first paper, descriptive of the recent discovery of earthworks at Leeds, Leeds, Kent. They are built up over the arches of the nave, and were inserted probably in the belief that they would help to the acoustic effect of the building. These arches are of fifteenth century date, but the bars appear to be older. The subject of acoustic pottery in church was dwelt upon at the society by Mr. B. Bischoff, as a result of the discovery of small carvings in jet found on the site of the Roman station, South Shields, which are very rare. —Mr. D. Gray Boch exhibited upon the peculiarities of the inscriptions. —Mr. R. Smith reported the discovery on the Allier of the site of a Roman manufactury of small statuettes of a different type from any others known, which are the most interesting. Several articles of rare occurrence in England. —Mr. Morgan read the second part of his paper 'On the recent discoveries in the site of the Roman armies in North Britain in the first and second centuries, the positions being indicated by numerous evidences which were passed in review, and on which were based the conclusions which afford additional information.'—The third paper was by Mr. W. C. Little, who traced the history of the Roman road across the region, and described its construction of gravel upon a layer of branches. It is generally twenty-five feet wide.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Jan. 14.—Prof. Newton, V.P., in the chair. —The Chairman called attention to the great loss which the Society and zoological science had by the recent death of their President, the Marquis of Tweeddale. —The Secretary read a Report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during December.—Dr. Trueman exhibited a specimen of the club-footed Fugus (Actolotus nudisirrus) recognized last September in the Museum of Science and Art Edinburgh. No information was given of any other additions in the Menagerie, but some remarks on the species. —Letters and papers were read: from Commander Hobson, on the subject of the range of the Moruk, and of the island of Bréan, far north of the above, and on the same subject; from Mr. R. Trimen, of Cape Town, on the subject of the true locality of this place, and its being a horizon town; from Mr. D. Watson and Dr. A. E. Young, on the Anatomy of the Spotted Hyena (Equus crocuta), from Mr. A. D. Dallard, giving an account of the habits and changes of plumage of Hum.