

estimable collaboration of Dr. Fitzedward Hall, whose voluntary labors have completed the literary and documentary history of numberless words, senses, and idioms, and whose contributions are to be found on every page; also the unflagging services of Dr. W. C. Minor, which have week by week supplied additional quotations for the words actually preparing for press."

In 1885 Dr. Murray removed from Mill Hill to Oxford. The building used by him as the first Scriptorium was presented to Mill Hill School, to the grounds of which it was transferred. It is now used by the boys of the school as a reading-room. The new Scriptorium was built in the garden of Sunnyside, the house in Banbury Road, Oxford, which has for the last twelve years been the sunshiny home of the Murray family. In that period the total number of slips has increased from 4,000,000 to 5,000,000. Dr. Murray estimates that another million of quotations will be needed for the completion of the work.

After each part of the Dictionary has been printed, the slips used in making it are put together, and sent off to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, to remain in their possession for twelve years, when they will be handed over to the Philological Society, whose property they will become. Moreover, that society may not use those materials for the making of another dictionary until a number of years have passed after the completion of the Oxford Dictionary. Even then any dictionary that may be published by the Philological Society must be not less than four times the size of that which is now becoming one of the chief literary glories of the university by the Isis. The copyright of the Oxford Dictionary belongs, of course, to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, who are themselves the representatives of the University in matters of printing and publishing.

Of recent years Dr. Murray has enjoyed the benefit of the assistance of Mr. Henry Bradley, a born philologist, whose genius was first disclosed in his article in the London *Academy* reviewing a portion of the Dictionary that had been published. The letter H is now going through the press, and Dr. Murray hopes to have it out in October. It will then have been one year and ten months in hand. The letter I will take about a year and six months. J and K will take about four months each. The editor hopes to finish K by the 31st of December, 1900. Should he accomplish this, he will have compiled more than half the Dictionary. The remainder may, if too many treacherous slips do not turn up, be worked off by 1910.

Dr. Murray was born in 1837, at Denholm, near Hawick, in the border county of Roxburgh. On his father's side he claims descent from Sir Andrew Murray, the friend and companion of Scotland's hero, Sir William Wallace. On his mother's side Dr. Murray descends from the border family of the Scotts of Boonraw, cadets of the Scotts of Harden. Educated at Cavers, Minto, Hawick, and Edinburgh, he adopted the profession of a teacher in 1855, as assistant master at Hawick Grammar School, becoming headmaster of Hawick Academy in 1858. From 1870 to 1885 he was chief assistant master at Mill Hill School, as well as examiner in the English language at the University of London from 1874 to 1878. While at Hawick he was one of the founders of

the local Archæological Society, of which he was the first Secretary, an office he filled for several years. He was happily married, in 1867, to Ada Agnes, eldest daughter of George Ruthven of Kendal, Westmorland. Since 1870 Dr. Murray has been a member of the Council of the Philological Society. He was President of the Society from 1878 to 1880 and again from 1882 to 1884.

Edinburgh had already conferred her high distinction upon Dr. Murray before he became editor of the Dictionary. Durham alone, of British universities, has recognized the value of the philological labors of the lexicographer as being those of a man of science rather than of a "harmless drudge," as Dr. Johnson defined a maker of dictionaries, according to the notion entertained by the vulgar. Neither Harvard nor any American university has yet entered the name of James Augustus Henry Murray on its beadroll. Oxford and Cambridge are in a similar position. On the other hand, some learned bodies on the continent of Europe have done honor to the editor of the Dictionary. It is to the credit of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia that that body, so far back as 1881, enrolled Dr. Murray as one of its foreign members.

D. D.

MAZZINI'S EARLY LETTERS, 1834-1840.

FLORENCE, February, 1898.

We have some very interesting letters of Mazzini's, hitherto unpublished, which cast fresh light on his life in Switzerland during the years that intervened between 1834 and 1837, *i. e.*, after the failure of the expedition to Savoy up to his arrival in London. The first series, published by Prof. Carlo Cagnacci, and entitled 'Joseph Mazzini and the Ruffini Brothers,' are in fact letters of the two exiles, Agostino and Giovanni Ruffini, to their mother, to whom also those of Mazzini are addressed. Unjustly but not unnaturally, the brothers regarded Mazzini as the cause of Jacopo's suicide and of their own exile. Now, in the first place, Jacopo possessed far more worldly wisdom than Mazzini; in the second, he was warned and might have escaped had he not refused to do so while yet there was time. We learn, too, that the eldest of the family had also committed suicide without any apparently adequate cause. Jacopo killed himself on finding that one of his dearest friends had betrayed him, fearing that he might himself become a traitor. Mazzini, though blameless, was haunted by a life-long sorrow for the martyrs of Young Italy, and considered it his duty to act towards the two exiles as a father. He had promised their mother to watch over them, and did so faithfully; but the slight difference in their ages, the immense difference in their characters, rendered his task a difficult one. Great, however, is their admiration of his genius, and for the first time we are assured of what we always suspected, *viz.*, that, after the failure of the Savoy expedition, when his followers were dispersed and the hopes of the entire party dispelled, when all save himself despaired of attaining independence, to say nothing of unity, Mazzini returned to his old idea of using literature and the press as a means of national redemption.

The second collection of letters issued to-day by L. Ordon de Rosales is entitled 'Mazzini and Some of his Fellow-Exiles to Gaspare Rosales,' Rosales being a wealthy

Lombard patriot who barely escaped arrest by the Austrians. They sequestered as much as they could of his property, while he spent most of his remaining fortune in succoring the exiles, and even supplying the sinews of war for fresh expeditions doomed to failure. Rosales was faithful to this system until 1859-60, when he accepted the monarchy of the plébiscite and his correspondence with Mazzini ceased; but, in his autobiography, the latter speaks of him with gratitude and admiration. Both collections should be read together, as the letters to Rosales often explain points merely hinted at in those addressed to "Signora-Elena," the mother of the Ruffini. The brothers always speak of Mazzini as "Antonietta, the cousin," etc.; we will keep to his well-known name of Pippo. On the 5th of August, 1834, from Berne, Giovanni (later the well-known author of 'Lorenzo Benoni' and 'Doctor Antonio') writes:

"At last I have read Pippo's drama; it is beautiful from beginning to end, and has several incomparable scenes." August 13. Pippo is in a high fever of composition; he dreams of nothing, does nothing, but his drama." August 19. Don't worry about Pippo; he is neither cast down by the unflourishing state of his affairs, nor by any thought of his future. His are artistic preoccupations which make him happy instead of miserable, and carry him up to an ideal sphere thousands of leagues away from this low world; he is always good and pure (*santo*), but his moods are utterly changed. He sees nothing, hears nothing, takes interest in nothing but in the creations of his own imagination. His is a true artistic egotism. He is now in ecstasy, having succeeded in getting a sum of money for the publication of his first work."

On the 26th of August, 1835, Agostino, who became professor of Italian in Edinburgh in 1840, writes: "Pippo starts to-day for Vienna, there to publish his 'Alessandro Medici.' Yesterday we sat up till midnight in the dark, singing the pieces of music that we liked best." October 3. Pippo has returned; the printing of his drama goes on slowly, but he must succeed! Alas, the drama was never published. Still, on the 17th of December: "Pippo has written a second drama entitled 'Anna,' full of interesting scenes and in a charming style. There are no allusions to politics, nothing that can bring it into disgrace with the censor. It is not historical; purely imaginative." Of neither of these dramas has any trace been found. We have the 'Foi et Avenir,' written in French in 1834, and Saffi, after endless research, recovered more than twenty articles written by Mazzini for the *Jeune Suisse*; perhaps he destroyed or lost the dramas when he returned to his conspiracies, his expeditions.

In his letters to Rosales during 1834-'5 Mazzini speaks of translating Lamennais's 'Paroles d'un Croisant' with a preface

"which will not be a tirade against tyranny, but rather a free philosophical discussion concerning the progress of the popular humanitarian symbol. I shall omit the so-called name of Young Italy to please the Lombards, but retain the motto, Liberty, Equality, Humanity. Would Ruggia [a Lugano publisher] undertake it? See James [Giacomo Ciani, a wealthy generous exiled patriot]. If we could earn 100 lire [\$20] it would be a godsend, at the end of our tether."

Then he speaks of the necessity of founding the Young Switzerland, and if this succeeded for a brief period, then the Young Europe, which is to save Switzerland from annihilation "and make of her an independent republic with the addition of Savoy;

Savoy, Switzerland, the Tyrol to form a confederation of the Alps." These letters are signed Strozzi. Meanwhile he continues the publication of the *Young Italy* journal, and speaks of his own article on Italian unity, of a religious article by Gioberti, another giving an account of the Savoy expedition; but he has not the wherewithal to pay the printer, and is much exercised how to smuggle the papers into Italy. Usiglio, one of the few who remained faithful to Mazzini, writes to Rosales in the same year: "Your affection is necessary to him. The other day he said to me, 'If his affection were to fail me, I should doubt all men, doubt Italy; I might even believe that some day my own mother's love would fail me.'" On October 1, 1834, Mazzini sends Rosales extracts from a letter of Lamennais's:

"Ce que vous avez fait, portera ses fruits. Vous avez organisé la lutte de l'esprit contre la matière, de la liberté contre la tyrannie; on ne saurait douter à qui la victoire restera. La cause que vous soutenez a pour auxiliaire le berceau et la tombe—la tombe qui dévore le passé, le berceau qui contient les germes de l'avenir. Prenez courage, monsieur; les mères enfantent pour vous," etc.

Rosales is disheartened; Mazzini reproaches him:

"These ideas of ours, you say, are mere dreams, but they are sublime dreams and will become realities in the future. Are you worn out with three years of delusions? Did not you, I, all of us, know when we accepted our mission that three centuries of delusions, of servitude, of inertia lay behind us? What is changed? Not the sanctity of our principles. What has success or failure to do with our faith? How can misfortune change our duty to our country? Come what will, let glory or infamy surround my grave, I care not. My voice, weak through tears, will be heard, will thrill through my brothers. And I know that the future dwells in my voice. Whether I shall see that future, matters not. Brother mine, be comforted, let your isolation itself comfort you. The finest type of man is he who from the midst of ruins foretells a brighter future."

All through 1835 this indomitable courage keeps him up. He receives the works of Giordano Bruno, of S. Simon, of Lessing, which he intends translating from German, "not trusting to French translations." He collects all Foscolo's works, and commences the "Dramatic Library," the first number of which, according to Agostino Ruffini, is to contain articles on "The Literature of the XIXth Century," on "Literary Materialism in France," on "Byron and Goethe," on "The German Dramatists: (1) Werner." This for the literary part. Then the social condition of woman is to be considered; music—"Robert le Diable," "I Puritani," "Chatterton."

They hoped to publish their review in Genoa, but the veto of the Piedmontese minister frustrated all their hopes. Mazzini, nothing daunted, proposes to found a review of European Literature, and submits to Rosales his first essay. Some of the articles did appear in a *Rivista Repubblicana*, and I have just found in Viuesseux's unique library a rare copy of the volume entitled 'L'Italiano,' published ostensibly in Paris, in which appear Mazzini's articles on Music, and others signed "E. J." Concerning these attempts, Mazzini writes in the third volume of his published works: "If this series had succeeded, it was to have been followed up by a work on Epopees, a work on the various religions of the world. Of the proposed dramas, Werner's '24th of February' was chosen. Agostino Ruffini translated it admirably [Mazzini him-

self wrote the essay on fatality]. But the experiment failed." "Byron and Goethe," one of Mazzini's finest literary productions, was printed "somewhere" in France. Of this a mangled translation appeared in the 'Literary Writings of a Living Italian,' was reproduced in the *Morning Chronicle* in 1839, and can now be read in perfect English, corrected by Mazzini himself, in the "Camelot Series," with an introduction by William Clarke. It is strange that neither Mazzini nor Saffi included this fine essay in the eighteen volumes of the Italian edition of his works.

The year 1836 was the bitterest of all the bitter years of Mazzini's life. Reduced to poverty, abandoned by those he loved best, the "tempest of doubt" assailed him as he tells us in his brief autobiographical notes (vol. iii.). Out of this tempest he came as one purified by fire, never again to hope for personal happiness, yet never again to doubt the sanctity of his mission, nor flag in its fulfilment because of the obstacles, the misery, the dangers that beset his path. The letters give a vivid glimpse of his early life in England, but we have space only for a few extracts from his to Signora Elena, whose sons continued for some time to live with him in London, but who were growing more and more intolerant of his persistence in his ideas, and anxious (naturally) to hew out each his own path. Some misunderstanding had suspended the correspondence; on the 9th of April, 1837, two months after their arrival in London, Mazzini writes:

"In your letter to my mother you say, 'Tell Pippo to love my sons always, because I know that his affection is necessary to their very existence, nor have they proved themselves unworthy.' So you have forgiven me and restored your friendship to me? You believe me to be unhappy but worthy of your esteem and affection? As to your request, listen to what I say, to what I swear by all that we both hold most sacred, the memory of our dead martyr [Jacopo]. I love your sons as I loved them when we were near one another [at Genoa before the catastrophe]. I shall love them as long as I live, whether they return my affection or no, because I am incapable of ceasing to love. Whenever (I speak of recent times) I have feared that they were changed towards me, I have wept, shed real tears even in their presence, and now I weep for no other cause. But all change, save you and me. In one thing your sons change not—that is, in their love for you. That love is holy, is immutable. Might I only come second to that love! But, whatever befalls, I love no other as I love them."

All these letters to Signora Ruffini, whom to the last Mazzini loved as his second mother, are worthy of translation, as they give us the real Mazzini. But the whole man will be revealed to us only when his letters to his own mother are published. These she herself gave to Signora Emilie Hawkes Venturi, who passed them on to Saffi for publication. Saffi died in 1890, just as he was commencing it; the letters were passed on to the committee, one of whose most active members died in the same year. The surviving members promise to issue the long-looked-for volume from year to year, but it is still a hope deferred. J. W. M.

Correspondence.

TRUMPERY SUITS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your recent comments on the Eng-

lish libel law and the proposed amendments requiring the plaintiff, whenever he is reasonably suspected of being a bankrupt, to furnish in advance security for costs, suggests the pushing of the same principle a little further. There seems no good reason why defendants in other actions in tort should not be offered the same protection.

In Illinois no security of costs is required except in case the plaintiff is a non-resident of the State. But even in that case the "costs" consist only of the fees of witnesses, the sheriff, the clerk of the court, etc., which constitute but a small part of the expenses of litigation. The practical result is, that an irresponsible person is at liberty to bring a "trumpery suit" and subject the defendant to a heavy outlay in necessary preparation for the trial, and then, when the suit has been thrown out of court, the defendant is left without any means of adequate reimbursement. This burden, for example, is particularly onerous when the defendant in a damage suit for personal injuries happens to be a charitable corporation which has no fund available for expensive litigation.

In a recent case in point, such a suit, without any foundation in justice, was instituted against a hospital, and, after a delay of some years, during which the defendant had been obliged to appear by its attorneys several times in court, to take the depositions of distant witnesses, to collate other evidence, and to incur considerable expense, the suit was called for trial and was promptly "dismissed for want of prosecution." Surely, justice to worthy plaintiffs does not require that every eleemosynary institution should be at the mercy of any bankrupt that can beg, borrow, or steal \$12 or \$15 for initial costs, and of any one of the ignoble army of lawyers that are ever ready to jump at the prospect of a "contingent fee," no matter how unmeritorious the cause.—Yours very truly,
S. R. T.

CHICAGO, February 18, 1898.

A VERSE VULGARISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent "F. T., Jr.," writing under the heading "A Verse Vulgarism" in the *Nation* for February 17, says, though with some hesitation, that he believes Keats to be free from rimes in -ng: -n.

Permit me to call his attention to one case at least, in the Sonnet "Written . . . at the end of Chaucer's Tale of the Flower and the Life." The closing couplet contains the rime sobbings, robins.—Very truly,

FEBRUARY 17, 1898.

E. P. H.

Notes.

'The Vitality of Christian Dogmas, and their Power of Evolution,' from the French of Dr. A. Sabatier by Mrs. L. Christen, will shortly be issued by Macmillan Co. They announce also 'My Life in Two Hemispheres,' by Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, in two volumes; 'A Handbook of Nature Study,' by D. Lange, of the Central High School, St. Paul; and Zola's 'Paris,' translated by Alfred Vize-telly.

The Continental Publishing Co., No. 25 Park Place, is about to publish in an edi-

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