

CRITICAL REVIEW

... DEVOTED TO ...

Literature, Music, and the Fine Arts.

EDITED BY

ARTHUR BLES. O

JOURNAL
HEBDOMADAIRE

PRICE Threepence

VOLUME I. No. 18.

THURSDAY, MAY 21st, 1903.

PRICE 30 centimes

CONTENTS.

Literature :—page 1

George Borrow, Bounder, by Ernest Newman.
Book-Reviews, by the Lady Theodora Davidson.
French Books, by Alys Hallard.
Theatrical Gossip, by H. J. Pugh.
The May Magazines, by Arthur Lawrence.
The Dancing Procession of Echternach, by the Countess R. de Courson.

Fine Arts :—page 7

Les Sabres au Japon (suite), par le Docteur Mèns.
Rodin: a poem, by Aleister Crowley.
The New Gallery, by Arthur Symons.
The Salon (cont.), by M. E. Pountney.
A Spy of the Empire: novel, by Charles Laurent.
The Venus of Milo and the Samothracian Victory, by M.E.P.

Music :—page 13

Alexis de Castillon (suite), par Hugues Imbert.
Ternina, by John F. Runciman.
Chopin: l'homme et sa musique (suite), par James Huneker.
Chips Caught Flying.
Au Trocadéro (suite), par Alfred Hertz.
Music in London, by A. Kalisch.

CONTRIBUTORS

MM. PAUL BOURGET
Membre de l'Institut
JULES CLARETIE
Membre de l'Institut
FRANÇOIS COPPÉE
Membre de l'Institut
GUSTAVE LARROUMET
Membre de l'Institut
JULES LEFEBVRE
Membre de l'Institut
HENRI ROUJON
Directeur des Beaux-Arts, Membre de l'Institut
VICOMTE MELCHIOR DE VOGUE
Membre de l'Institut
M. D. CALVOCORESSI
ALFRED CAPUS
CAMILLE CHEVILLARD
COQUELIN CADET
Mme la COMTESSE R. DE COURSON
LADY THEODORA DAVIDSON
HAYLOCK ELLIS
LOUIS DE FOURCAUD
RÉMY DE GOURMONT
JAMES HUNEKER
J. K. HUYSMANS
HUGUES IMBERT
VINCENT D'INDY
ALFRED KALISCH
PRINCE B. KARAGEORGEVITCH
ARTHUR LAWRENCE
CHARLES MALHERBE
CATULLE MENDÈS
D. E. MÈNE
ERNEST NEWMAN
GEORGES DE PEYREBRUNE
TONY ROBERT-FLÉURY
AUGUSTE RODIN
J. H. ROSNY
JOHN F. RUNCIMAN
ARTHUR SYMONS

LITERATURE

George Borrow, Bounder

BY
ERNEST NEWMAN

I can never understand in the first place how George Borrow ever came to be printed at all, and in the second place why he is ever reprinted. "The Bible in Spain" may perhaps pass muster; but what on earth there is in any of his other books to give a man a reputation will always be a mystery to me. Evidently he still has readers, or publishers would not think it worth their while to bring out reissues of his books; but I am fain to hope that there cannot be a very wide circle to which this crude and self-sufficient spirit speaks with any charm. The latest reprint is "The Romany Rye," in Messrs Methuen's "Little Library," the best thing in which, to my mind, is the little introduction by Mr John Sampson—the librarian of University College, Liverpool, a man of wide and curious culture, and a much greater authority on things Romany than that arch-poseur Borrow. If any one feels that it is still a duty to read "The Romany Rye," he had better get this edition and benefit by the valuable little essay of Mr Sampson.

Borrow, it is very evident, had little or no faculty of invention. He is as often as not an exceedingly dull dog even when he is narrating his own experiences; but when he has to invent episodes and characters for his story he touches even a lower depth of the uninteresting. Thus in "The Romany Rye," as Mr Sampson puts it, "Borrow's narrative after his arrival at Stafford becomes dull, shadowy, and unconvincing—a strong argument against its truth; for while Borrow easily lived the life romantic, he seems to have lacked the power to imagine it." With the exception of these scenes and of one or two others, "Lavengro" and "The Romany Rye" are in all probability a fairly faithful record of personal adventure day by day, "expanded," as his present editor suggests, "from