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never so numerous as the undoubted eminence of the author would appear to demand.

The fact is, however, that Ovid's commanding position in the literature of the world is largely due to at least two aspects of his genius the influence of which is not revealed by such indicia. One of these is his command of metrical technique, the other, his ability to tell a story. The former is his greatest gift to Antiquity, the latter is the basis of his supreme importance in the aesthetic evolution of the Modern World. But in both cases what he really did passed into the communal fund of acquired ability, and the author of it became, as it were, 'depersonalized'. Hence the ancients forgot their debt to Ovid, just as we for the most part have finally forgotten ours. As a metrical artist, however, Ovid takes his place among the great poets of the world. In this respect he did for Roman poetry what Cicero had already done for Roman prose; he found it more or less local, and left it capable of universal use for an indefinite period. And when at the Renaissance we moderns at last outgrew the *Chanson de Gestes*, which babbled on like a brook through an entire pedigree, and the *Roman d'Aventures*, the incidents of which could be predicted in advance, and the *Fabliau* which, to say the least, was nothing new, we turned, with rare discrimination, to the greatest story-teller of the Roman world, we sat at the feet of the man who, as Mackail well says, 'fixed a certain ideal of civilized manners for the Latin Empire and for Modern Europe', and learned from him as best we could what it is that makes a story immortal and always young.

KIRBY FLOWER SMITH.

The Guipuscoan Verb of the Year 1713, found in the Catechism of J. Ochoa de Arin; An Analytical and Quotational Index made by E. S. DODGSON, M. A. An Offprint of 83 Pages from Numbers 36, 37, 38 and 39 of *Hermathena*. At the University Press, Trinity College, Dublin, November 19, 1913.

Well known is the exceptional interest which belongs to Bascollogical investigation. The Baskish tung, isolated in classification, is the last specimen of the languages spoken in Europe before the Aryan invasion; and is by general consent set down as one of the most difficult languages in the world, if not the most difficult. And, whilst the theory of the

Baskish noun is mainly the same as that of another linguistic family represented in Europe, I mean the Ural-Altai (i. e. Hungarian, Finnish, Esthonian, Lapp, and Turkish), the theory of its verb is peculiar to itself, and is not to be found, we believe, in any other known language. Indeed, the Baskish verb is a monument of so complicated a structure that one has some difficulty at first in forming any idea of it. Yet in the long run, when we have sounded its mysteries, its vigorous architecture cannot fail to make its charms felt by us, no less for its mathematical regularity than by its philological profundity. But the difficulty abides, and to meet and overcome this difficulty is the task to which Mr. Dodgson, the only Bascologue of the Anglo-Saxon race now living, has consecrated himself.

His great work, *The Analysis of the Baskish Verb*, as it occurs in the New Testament of Leizarraga (printed at La Rochelle, in 1571, by order of Jeanne d'Albret, Queen of Navarre, and mother of Henri IV) has appeared in numerous instalments, and is already nearly completed. The author possesses the last volume in manuscript, and would already have published it, if the want of material resources had not hindered him. May we be permitted to express publicly the hope which he records among the final notes contained in the work which we are considering: "that it may win the favour of any wealthy patron of Linguistic Research, of any Academy, Society, or University, having at heart the Advancement of Learning and Science, and lead them to provide the cost of finishing his work, as a reward for the great sacrifice of time which it has asked from him".

But besides this *opus maius*, Mr. Dodgson has busied himself with other philological works, such as reimpressions of old texts, and the like; forty-two separate works already standing to his credit on the catalog. That which concerns us now is a Synopsis of the Verb, conceived on the same plan as that devoted to Leizarraga. It is indeed a small Guipuscoan—English word-book, dealing with the Catechism of Don José Ochoa de Arin, printed at San Sebastián, in 1713. This catechism is the oldest existing work printed in the Baskish dialect of Guipúscoa, one of the two literary dialects of the Spanish Basks, the other being the Biscayan. It will be seen at once how interesting this work must be, through its venerable antiquity; and how important the study of it made by Mr. Dodgson must be for the purpose of comparing Guipuscoan with the other dialects. For it is a point to be noted that the Baskish language is not unitarian, but subdivided into a certain number of dialects, with forms varying in their turn according to the time. In order to find ones way through this labyrinth, it is indispensable to lay hold of

an Ariadne clew, and one cannot conceive of a better one than the publications of our author.

Let us hope that the works of Mr. Dodgson will contribute to popularise a study no less interesting than unjustly neglected, and that he will find in the sympathy of the learned world a compensation for the pecuniary and moral sacrifice which he has felt obliged to make to his Bascollogical Ideal.

H. BOURGEOIS.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, *December 1, 1913.*