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Hartland on the Legend of Perseus *The Legend of Perseus*, by E. S. Hartland, F.S.A., Vol. I. Nutt: London, 1894. 7s. 6d.

F. B. Jevons

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The device however was not difficult to hit upon. Its inventor would have shown more penetration had he seen that it is not like Tibullus, though it is like Propertius, to refer to himself by name, except where, as in epitaph (i. 3, 55) or inscription, the name is indispensable, and that Tibullus has only once used the rhythm of the verse which ascribes it to him, in the very place (i. 9, 83) from which, as I believe, the idea of this ascription was derived.

Of the *quaestiones Tibullianae* pp. 3—18 consists of answers to the objections of reviewers (Cr., Magnus, Rothstein), of which I have taken account in the foregoing. Next follow some corrected statements of the reading of A. I may quote i. 3 *title*

egrotet (not *egi utet*); 12 *omina* A ex. corr.; 9, 19 *O uiciis*; iv. 1, 82 *artos*; 165 *rigentem* (*m* sec. ma. in ras. potest fuisse *s*); iv. 12, 2 '*uideas*' agreeing with V. The last four pages are filled with a transcript of Hein-sius' excerpts of certain fifteenth century codices, preserved at Berlin (MS. Diez. B. Sant. 55, d.) '*ut aliquando quid e codice y traditum sit, comperiatur.*' From the transcript it may now be seen how justly they have been neglected. In conclusion we may express the hope that the author of these two pamphlets will not abandon the critical investigations for which in many respects he appears eminently qualified.

J. P. POSTGATE.

HARTLAND ON THE LEGEND OF PERSEUS.

The Legend of Perseus, by E. S. HARTLAND, F.S.A., Vol. I. Nutt: London, 1894. 7s. 6d.

To review a work of which the first volume alone has appeared is a matter of difficulty and is not altogether fair to the author, when, as in this case, the volume contains merely the author's facts and not the conclusions which he thinks they point to. It must suffice therefore now briefly to point out the importance and interest of this book. As for its importance, enough of Mr. Hartland's work has even now appeared to show that it is one of the most learned contributions to folk-lore which has ever been produced by an English scholar. The volume contains only facts, but facts in such abundance that they are a monument of industry and learning. The interest of the book is threefold. First, it appeals to the student of folk-lore: an incident (the supernatural birth of the hero) in a world-wide story is shown to have its parallel in a world-wide custom (that of endeavouring to cure sterility by means of drugs, charms, etc.). What inference Mr. Hartland will draw from this remains to be seen: the facts seem enough to show both that the incident might have been suggested to any number of story-tellers independently, and that a tale containing the incident would

find everywhere suitable soil in which to take root. Next, the volume appeals to the student of apologetics: he will find Mr. Hartland quoting from the legends of all countries a number of instances of supernatural and miraculous conception. The origin of the belief enshrined in these legends is apparent from Mr. Hartland's account: the belief in the power of curing sterility is world-wide; springing from it is the belief in parthenogenesis produced medicinally or miraculously—this belief is apparently less widely spread; and finally there is the belief that heroes, founders of dynasties, and men-gods must have differed in their birth, as in their life and death, from other men, and therefore must have been miraculously born of a virgin—this last belief is apparently the least widely spread of the three. What is to be inferred from these facts, Mr. Hartland again does not explicitly state. Finally, the classical student will be interested in Mr. Hartland's book: the legend of Perseus takes him under Mr. Hartland's guidance back to primitive savagery and forward through folk-lore to modern times. The book, which forms the second volume in a new series, entitled the Grimm library, is, like all books issued by Mr. Nutt, beautifully got up.

F. B. JEVONS.