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## **Perry's *Sancta Paula Sancta Paula*; a Romance of the Fourth Century, A.D. By Walter Copland Perry. London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co., 1902. 6s.**

T. R. Glover

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amount of the failure is the only gauge of success. Allowing for this and for the difference of ideal already referred to, Father Brennan may be said to have produced a version which is somewhat more than meritorious. We may doubt if the stanzas of Childe Harold are readily translatable into Latin heroics. But what metre would have been more appropriate? Father Brennan is a faithful translator, and so the sombre sameness of the original is reflected in the version.

I quote one of the most successful of his renderings, the 19th Stanza, which will give an idea of the task and its performance :

The horrid crags, by toppling convent  
crown'd,  
The cork-trees hoar that clothe the shaggy  
steep,  
The mountain-moss by scorching skies  
imbrown'd,  
The sunken glen, whose sunless shrubs  
must weep,  
The tender azure of the unruffled deep,  
The orange tints that gild the greenest  
bough,  
The torrents that from cliff to valley leap,  
The vine on high, the willow branch below,  
Mix'd in one mighty scene, with varied  
beauty glow.  
Horrida saxa quibus dominans supereminet  
aedes,

canaque quae praeceps abruptum subera  
velant,  
montanus rapidis muscus fulgoribus ustus,  
saltus, ubi sudant frutices sine sole, pro-  
fundus,  
caeruleum placidi purum sine momine ponti,  
quique color ramos viridantes flavus inaurat,  
spumeus in vallem saliens de rupibus  
amnis,  
infra lenta salix, supra vindemia pinguis,  
conspectu grandi vario splendore coruscant.

Father Brennan's elegiacs and lyrics are inferior to his hexameters. But one of his pentameters deserves quoting for itself

dira lues vitae mens memor ipsa sui.

It is in my judgment much superior to the original

'The blight of life—the Demon Thought.'

The author asks for corrections of mistakes : I have noticed *vidēretur, caeli* (plural), *peredit* (ind. pres., see *C.R.* March 1902, p. 110), *rudens* for 'shrieking,' *diffugiens* of a single person.

The booklet includes a few original poems in Latin which, especially one dealing with a football match in the Vale of Clonmel, suggest that their author might turn his thoughts to the Hoëufftian competitions.

T P P

#### PERRY'S *SANCTA PAULA*.

*Sancta Paula; a Romance of the Fourth Century, A.D.* By WALTER COPLAND PERRY. London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co., 1902. 6s.

WHAT reception this book will receive from the general public we may see by and bye. In the meantime one may be permitted to doubt whether it will be popular. The author has amassed an immense quantity of facts bearing on the fourth century, and works them into his story, or, more truly, twines his story through them, with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, his knowledge is hardly accurate enough to make his book a work of reference, nor is his story strong enough to wear its weight of learning like a flower.

The author, running short of authorities, has tried to patch the fourth century with the Augustan period in a most disconcerting

way. Paula's maids all come out of Horace, Chloe, Pyrrha, Leuconoe, Canidia, and so forth, and seem uncertain to which period they belong. Canidia, for example, dabbles in magic—not without reminiscences of Horace's *Satires*. Neaera becomes the *agapeta* of a priest. One of Paula's suitors is Telephus. After Paula's marriage (on the lines of the Prayer Book), an Anacreontic ode is sung on her arrival at home (p. 85). (It is a little surprising to find so much Greek in Rome at the time.) Toxotius is hailed in the streets—'*Ave! Ave! clarus Anchisae Venerisque sanguis*' (p. 79). We know from Ammianus and Jerome what sort of things the Roman mob did call out (*per te ille discat*, for example), but Horace was surely not so familiar. The 'staid Christian widow, Corinna' (p. 137), and the 'rich Marcus Croesus (not the triumvir)' (p. 7) are also a little astonishing. Then we hear a

good deal in the novel of the Emperor Valentinian being at Rome. History seems to show that he never was there. Nor was Ausonius. Claudian too seems not to have appeared in Rome till about a quarter of a century after Mr. Perry's characters quote him. Indeed I am not clear that Valentinian was even Emperor at all when Paula married. Let the author have the benefit of the doubt.

Ammianus laughs at the Roman fancy for new-fangled names, citing or inventing Reburus. Cinara (one of Paula's Horatian maids) points out Marius Maecius Maemius Furius Balburius Caecilianus Placidus, who is happily shortened to 'Marius Maecius etcetera.' The menu at the marriage suggests the first rather than the fourth century. Mr. Perry quotes Macrobius on fourth century feasting, so that it is odd that Paula's family should go back to the Satirists. It is indeed a 'dubious feast' (p. 91). The 'ball' too, is rather indeterminate; is it British, or does it lean to Herodias' daughter

and the *ambubaiæ*? I do not think either would have won Damasus' blessing. 'Patrician' is a word of various meanings—it means one thing in early Roman history, another in Gibbon, and a third—let us say—in Disraeli; what it means in this book, I do not know. Nor do I know any authority for the statement (p. 15) that the 'common herd of plebeians,' the '*colluvies gentium*,' 'could still bestow consulships, provinces, and legions.' Nor am I clear as to Toxotius' real feelings when his wife 'put off the *toga praetextata* of maidenhood and assumed the *toga recta* of the married woman' (p. 99).

Turning to the other side of the book one may ask, will it do as a novel? It is full of Latin quotations—odd enough, some of them ('all the various noises that went to make up the *streptitumque Romae*' p. 78)—and I incline to think that these will militate against its success with any class of readers to whom the character-drawing and dialogue might appeal.

T. R. GLOVER.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### LATIN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

'LATIN [it is true] is an optional subject for matriculation at the University last founded in England.' This statement, made in the July number of the *Classical Review* of the present year, though true so far as it goes, nevertheless requires to be supplemented, if it is to represent accurately the situation in the University of Birmingham. Latin is an optional subject for matriculation in the Faculties of Science and Commerce at Birmingham, but not for matriculation in the Faculties of Arts and Medicine. In other words, Arts students and Medical students must pass in Latin at the Birmingham matriculation examination, but Science and Commerce students need not. The Birmingham solution of the question of Latin at the matriculation depends, therefore, on faculty differentiation; what is requisite as a preparation for a University course in one line of study is not, it is held, necessarily requisite for all lines of study. And in basing its scheme on the requirements of the several Faculties of the University, Birmingham at the same time recognises that there exist and should exist many different types of schools from which the

University may hope to draw students. At the recent matriculation examination, however, of 115 candidates over 100 offered Latin as one of their two foreign languages.

A word may be added on the character of the examination in Latin at the Birmingham matriculation. Each candidate has to offer a set book chosen by himself (subject to the approval of the University); but the examination on this set book is conducted *viva voce*. The written examination is limited to translation at sight, grammar and composition. In this way, it is hoped the difficulties connected with set books may be to some extent avoided; though, at the same time, the University has to face the new difficulty of examining all candidates *viva voce*—a difficulty which in the case of a University with a very large number of candidates for matriculation might prove insurmountable. But at any rate the Birmingham method of dealing with this question avoids embarrassing schools by prescribing a single book which they must all read, however unsuitable it may happen to be to the class in which it is studied and it also avoids the peril of abolishing se