

## CORRESPONDENCE.

STR.—The gist of my review of Mr. Mahaffy's new volume was this—the book is very entertaining but very inaccurate. I insisted on its merits, but also gave half a dozen extracts to illustrate its defects. The following sentence occurs in the middle of the first extract:—

'One of these despots, Leucon, is mentioned by Demosthenes (in *Leptinem*, § 30—40) as having obtained for himself and his heirs the freedom of the city of Athens, in requital for the gifts of corn he had bestowed on the Athenians in a time of scarcity.'

In commenting on that extract, I criticised this sentence incidentally:—

'Demosthenes says that the Athenians made Leucon ἀρελῆς and πολίτης: the modern phrase "freedom of the city" is altogether misleading. Leucon had not bestowed gifts of corn: he had simply allowed ships bound for Athens a priority in loading corn, and waived his claim to export duty.'

In his letter to you, Mr. Mahaffy drops the freedom of the city and the time of scarcity, and says:—

'When speaking in passing of the friendship of Pontic tyrants with Athens, and merely to note that fact, I said that "Leucon had obtained this friendship by means of large gifts of corn," I should have said that "Leucon had obtained this friendship by means of granting trade facilities which amounted to large gifts of corn".....But what matter? Does it affect, in the smallest degree, my argument?'

This certainly would not affect the argument, for the very good reason that there is

no argument there to affect. But the distinction is material. The corn-trade was not a matter of gifts and friendship, but strictly a matter of business. In fact, the contention in *Lept.* 29 ff. is that, in making Leucon ἀρελῆς in their city, the Athenians were giving him an equivalent in money or money's worth for his grant of ἀρέλεια on their exports of corn from his territory. The Athenians afterwards accepted gifts of corn from foreign potentates; but at this time they were still an imperial people. Mr. Mahaffy has overlooked the anachronism; but he cannot well dismiss it as a triviality, for he has himself applauded Grote for regarding the acceptance of such gifts by the Athenians as the signal for bringing his history to a close.

Mr. Mahaffy tells you that my extracts are not fair specimens of the rest of the work, and afford no proof of general incompetence; and rather hints that they contain all the worst blunders in the book. I can only say that I chose these extracts because they were partly concerned with ancient authors and inscriptions, partly with antiquities and antiquarian literature, and partly with modern subjects, and therefore illustrated his inaccuracy on all sides; and that, in selecting them from others of the same sort, I took them simply because they were short and decisive.

CECIL TORR.

## MONTHLY RECORD.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

*Carlisle*.—A broken cylindrical column has been found here, of Roman date, 1 ft. 9 ins. in diameter, and 4 ft. 7 ins. high. It was standing *in situ*, on a pavement of concrete, about 5 ft. 4 ins. below the present surface. The site is near that of a building erected in 1830, when many relics of Roman occupation were found on the spot, including several broken columns. These discoveries point to the existence of some important building with a colonnade before it, perhaps the temple of Mars of which Camden speaks, quoting from William of Malmesbury.

Five hitherto unknown inscriptions were found in the fly-leaves of pocket-books which belonged to William Nicholson, Bishop of Carlisle from 1702 to 1718. One is from an altar found in 1687, apparently dedicated to the Deae Matres; another is on the well-known Aelius Bassus stone found in 1688. The three others were taken from the Plumpton wall, and are very fragmentary; one is from an altar, but the Bishop failed to interpret more than the letters D. M.<sup>1</sup>

## GERMANY.

*Limburg in the Palatinate*.—In restoring buildings connected with the monastery here the front of a large edifice was discovered, with round-arched windows, also part of a Roman millstone, of basalt, and two other grinding-stones, of quartz, oval-shaped and smooth; the latter were also used for grinding corn, the smaller one being placed uppermost, and the corn crushed between the two; in Roman times both styles of grinding must have been employed.<sup>2</sup>

## ITALY.

*Verona*.—In repairing the foundations of the Regaste del Redentore several large heavy pipes of lead have been found, which must have belonged to the ancient aqueduct which traversed the Aemilian bridge, and was destroyed by an inundation of the Adige in the sixth century; at the same time some hundreds of gold, silver, and bronze coins were found including some of Galba and Trajan.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquary*. April 1891.

<sup>2</sup> *Berl. Phil. Woch.* 7 March.

<sup>3</sup> *Athenaeum*. 4 April 1891.