The Nation.

[Vol. 72, No. 1836]

The Life and Death of Richard Yor-Yn-Nap.

By Maurice Hewlett.

The Maximilian Co. 1890. 12mo. pp. 60.

Not once but many times the troubadour, Bertran de Born, knew him well, called him "Tove and Nay." Here was a title for Mr. Hewlett's book and his due to the labyrinth of cross-purposes, of doing and undoing, that was Richard. In the wrong Richard did to the woman that loved him lay the forecast of his more notorious tragedy. When he pronounced the name of the Fair Greide, he said it to his heart in the last ten years. We have then looked these out, both in the body of the work and in the supplement. This examination did not extend to literary English (because we presume that a person who wants information about such words would go a long way to find them) but was chiefly confined to scientific terms. The result was to show us that the biology, and especially the general biological history, had been extraordinarily well done, both in the main body of the work and in the supplement, and most of the other branches were found very well done in the main work, and, for the most part, fairly well kept up in the supplement. Certainly, the more philosophical sciences, mathematics, logic, metaphysics, and psychology, are the least satisfactory. Both the old editor-in-chief and the new one, the Hon. W. T. Harris, Ph.D., LL.D., were philosophers mainly occupied with obsolete systems of thought. Of course, such a work will inevitably be the best criticism in thousands of places. Many critics might have been set right at amateur's expense, by small alterations in the plates. Why, for example, should a list of "burned" elements be put before the reader which not only omits all the new ones, but omits many of the old ones. Some of these are not even given in the supplement—but also includes mindly pretended elements that ever had very strong claims to the title, and are now known not to be such? Such names ought to be in the vocabulary, but not in a list of elements.

In popularly supposed, we believe, that the great effort of a dictionary-maker is to get together as many words as possible. That probably was true at an early stage of the art, but to-day his great struggle consists of trying if he be a one-volume dictionary that he is making—to keep his work within its prescribed bounds. A dictionary, however, is a work which must continue to be sufficient for many years; and, for that reason, the head of each department should be a man thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the coming developments in that department. If space is to be made, it should be done by working out matters of detail; but there should be a disposition to welcome all words which signify new ideas that are seriously pressing for recognition in each branch. To that end, the editor-in-chief should be a man who leaves room for the modern and progressive spirit, always impressing the specialist with the view of what is wanted. It would be easy to show that this has not been, in all cases, been done in the present instance, and that several departures of the dictionary have suffered in consequence of its not having been done. Nevertheless, the whole is a magnificent work of the greatest everyday utility.

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