

dans la prison est plein de force." But he adds: "Mais y a-t-il un ornement, si charmant et ingénieux qu'on l'imagine, qui puisse dépasser la sublime simplicité du récit platonicien? Et n'est-ce point un crime que de rabaisser la scène de la mort de Socrate telle que la décrit Platon à ce niveau d'anecdote et de tableau de genre?" The intention of Pascoli is not to "dépasser" Plato, but to make a new creation, to be judged on its own merits, and not in relation to any masterpiece which aesthetically can neither be greater nor smaller. The inconsiderate children who crowd with thoughtless inquisitiveness around the prison door, bring to our mind the sublimity of the event in very much the same way that a blind man, turning his inquiring, vacant eyes to the sun, directs our thoughts to the beauty of this world of light and to the sadness of its passing.

There is perhaps in the poem a little of Pascoli's mannerism, but before condemning an expression as irrelevant and undignified, let us be reminded of the pathetic irrelevance in Andromache's tender wailing over Hector's body:

γυμνόν. ἀτὰρ τοι ἔμματα ἐν μεγάροισι κέονται  
λεπτά τε καὶ χαρίεντα, τετυγμένα χερσὶ γυναικῶν.

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*The Oak Book of Southampton, of c. A. D. 1300. Transcribed and Edited from the unique MS. in the Audit House, with Translation, Introduction, Notes, Etc.* By P. STUDER, Professor of French and German at Hartley University College, Southampton. Vol. I. Southampton, Cox & Sharland, 1910. Pp. xliii + 160.

This volume takes favorable position among the publications of the Southampton Record Society. It will be followed by a second and final volume. Because of the rarity in America of the publications of the Record Society, it is well to draw the attention of Romance scholars and students of law and customs to this valuable book. The MS. which Mr. Studer publishes has been preserved at Southampton for six centuries. It derives its name from being bound in oak. The editor identifies this MS. with one frequently mentioned earlier under the name of the "Paxbread." The first portion of the MS. appears to date from about 1300. The oldest entries are in Norman-French; others are in a medieval Latin which is but thinly disguised French; only a few later notes are in English. The text offers a clear impression of the government of the town, of the powers and privileges of the Guild Merchant. The language, of course, is of interest to the filologist, and adds not a little to the volume of published Norman-French. An idea of the value of the text may be obtained from an article which Mr. Studer has recently published in the *Modern Language Review*, vol. VI, pp. 174-82: *Etude sur quelques Vocables Anglo-Normands*.

R. W.

*Bibliographie lyonnaise: Recherches sur les Imprimeurs, Libraires, Relieurs et Fondateurs de Lettres de Lyon au XVIIe. Siècle, par le Président Baudrier, publiées et continuées par J. Baudrier. Huitième Série.* Paris, A. Picard et Fils; Lyons, Louis Brun, 1910. Pp. 447. 2 plates.

The last volume of this remarkable series reveals, on the part of the authors, the same critical acumen and patient research that characterised its predecessors.