

Facts of Fiction.

It is a curiosity of travel that so many travelers, when they are abroad, visit the places and haunts of famous fiction as much as they do those of history and reality, if not even more.

How many people are there who go to Scotland for no other purpose than to follow out the wandering fancies of Walter Scott's immortal music, who tramp over the Highlands to the memory of Rob Roy, see the purple Trossachs for the sake of Roderick Dhu, for whom Flodden Field would be barren of interest had "Marmion" never been written, and who would never see Dryburg Abbey, or the ruins of Melrose or Kenilworth Castle, but for the phantoms that rise to welcome them at the wand of the wizard of the North?

How many are there, again who would never cross the limits of the Italian town that knew the history of Romeo and Juliet if Shakespeare had told us nothing of their love; whom neither the heath of Forres nor Birnam Wood, Dunsinane would ever tempt from the beaten path, had not the witches met the Thane of Cawdor on that heath, had not Macbeth seen those woods moving on his stronghold?

Who of the wandering band has not looked for Lord Steyne's mansion in London as much as for the solid stones of the Duke of Wellington's—does not glance for some reminder of the old Colonel and Clive Newcome among the Bluecoat Boys far more than for any of the real and famous among the long list of those boys.

And for whom is not London peopled with the beings created by the fancy of him whom Lady Bulwer—before his death in common with the crew who busies itself in hunting out only his follies and blemishes since his death—styled the Aristophanes of the Pot-house and the Plutarch of the Paré, but whom the world will know, long after his defamers are forgotten, as the Lord of Laughter and Tears? What is the Court of Chancery to our travelers, but as it gives them Mr. Jarndyce and Miss Flyte? Of whom of all that have entered the gates of the Marshalsea do they reckon but Little Dorrit? And do they not know the very house that will presently crack from top to bottom, the man whose mustache goes up and whose nose goes down when he laughs, sitting in the window meanwhile? They walk through High Holborn to look for the shop of Pold Sweetlepepes and the lodging of Mrs. Gamp; they follow Mr. Pickwick from the city; Brighton stands to them only for Paul Dombey and "What are the wild waves saying?" The dialect of Yorkshire has no other significance to their ears than that John Browdie spoke it; Dover is sacred to Betsy Trotwood and the donkeys; Yarmouth means the wreck of Steerforth; England and the English are, in fact, only Charles Dickens. Soon now they will be following the footsteps of Macleod of Dare, perhaps, or looking up the next story-writer who stamps his die with such vigorous action as to impress all hearts with the personality of his fancies of his portraits.

Certainly this is a great tribute to the power of Genius and to the fact of the existence of genius in the popular writers of fiction. For it is not only persons and places that have thus been made so real, but by-gone generations have been infused with such a fresh life that they have become as vivid to us as to day's, and scenes and times that would have been but dry bones otherwise, have grown animated and full of vital pith and marrow under their hand.

Does not Hawthorne, in the "Scarlet Letter," and other of his tales, make the people of the old Puritanic era, that once had been repulsive to us as goblins and goblins, creatures of flesh and blood passions and emotions like our own so that we can understand them, feel with them, aspire with them, forgive them? Do we not picture to ourselves and realize more clearly the domestic life of an ancient Egypt better than all the tones of history can teach it on reading Theophile Gautier's "Romance of a Mummy?" What should we seek of the barbaric tribes of a little peninsula in the Levant and its rocky islets if Homer had not held up his torch to their struggles? Do we not feel that Homer created Helen? And should we care a straw for all of Schliemann's work if Homer had never sung of Achilles and the Xanthus?—Harper's Bazar.

—One of the daughters of Brigham Young, who was lately expelled from the Mormon church for aiding some of the brethren who attempted to rob her, when entreated to return to the fold, replied: "My father, prophet, though you call him, broke many a woman's heart. If it was required of me to break as many hearts and run as many women as my father did, I should go to perdition before I would go back into the Church. A religion which breaks women's hearts and ruins them is of the devil. That's what Mormonism does. Don't talk to me of father!"

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