

taken to obtain brilliancy as well as permanence of colour, and it is evident that these art linens lend themselves to painting and embroidery, and, as their manufacture was initiated with the object of supplying Irish workers with a new means of livelihood, we have called attention to them here.

The Exhibition as a whole is well worth a visit.

### A Book of the Week.

#### \*"THE MANXMAN."

Mr. Hall Caine has attained a very high level of success in "The Manxman." Parts of the novel are amazingly good, and the two principal men's characters are admirably conceived and contrasted. Pete and Philip are both human beings, and the sad story of their lives takes us down to the very depths of human passion and remorse. Pete is a great and loveable character, but the refined and chivalrous traitor Philip is depicted with subtle skill. Chivalrous traitor sounds paradoxical, nevertheless it is the only adjective and noun that I can think of adequate to express his mixed character, for he was a traitor, almost unknowingly at first, and yet he never in his darkest moments sinks below a certain level, and his heartfelt remorse and suffering help him to a more spiritual and less worldly view of life. The heroine, Katherine, is a fine study of woman's nature. She is not at all like the figure head in most modern novels, for she loves Philip in the most complete and old-fashioned manner imaginable, and through all her wrong-doing, all her suffering, she never wavers in her love, and remains to the end, as she was in the beginning, unworthy of the true and noble devotion of Pete—her husband, lover, and most true and loyal friend.

I thought the following extract very fine:—

"When a good woman falls from honour, is it merely that she is a victim of momentary intoxication, of stress of passion, of the fever of instinct? No. It is mainly that she is a slave of the sweetest, tenderest, most spiritual and pathetic of all human fallacies—the fallacy that by giving herself to the man she loves, she attaches him to herself for ever. This is the real betrayer of nearly all good women that are betrayed. It lies at the root of tens of thousands of the cases that make up the merciless story of man's sin and woman's weakness. Alas! it is only the woman who clings the closer. The impulse of the man is to draw apart. He must conquer it or she is lost. Such is the old cruel difference and inequality of man and woman as nature made them—the old trick—the old tragedy."

If suffering could expiate sin Katherine paid her full debt. The story of her life with Pete is most pathetically told, and a reader must indeed have a stony heart who can lay the book aside unmoved.

The fault of the book is that the dramatic situations that arise, do not spring up spontaneously. They are a trifle too melo-dramatic; and when Philip, in a delirious dream, reveals his anguish of soul to the betrayed husband, the whole scene, magnificent as it is, is yet somewhat unconvincing. Interested and fascinated, we turn page after page of this most tragic drama, but afterwards, though the mind will busy itself with

thoughts and questions aroused by its perusal, yet reflection will decide that the situations are too strained, too obviously arranged to heighten the dramatic effect, but in spite of this defect of construction "The Manxman" is a grand book—a book to possess for oneself, and not merely send for, from the circulating library. I should, however, like to quarrel with the author for making Pete drown his faithful old friend, the dog Deemster. True the dog was old and might have suffered on the long sea voyage that his master had in prospect, yet it was a barbarous thing to do, and I protest that Pete, as his creator describes him, would never have had the heart to do it, but would have taken his constant canine companion back with him to Africa. The setting of the story in the Isle of Man is most effective, and the local traditions of that island are most interestingly and numerous described. Decidedly "The Manxman" is to be heartily recommended and it should be read without delay by all those who have not done so already. A.M.G.

### Reviews.

#### SENSIBLE SOCIALISM.\*

AMID the aspirations of the Utopian philanthropist-reformer, on the one hand, and the hard reasoning of the political economist on the other, it is refreshing to listen to the experience and suggestions of such people as Canon S. A. Barnett, Warden of Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel, and his wife, Mrs. Henrietta Barnett. The essays in their book just published, "Practical Socialism," are calm, wise, sympathetic, deliberate, convincing. The writers know only too well that great evils and great inequalities exist; but they know also that no high-handed revolutionary reforms will effect any real or lasting improvement. Existing agencies must be perfected and put into thorough efficiency. Reformers should endeavour to graft new schemes of social improvement on to old institutions, and not wildly pursue some will-o'-the-wisp, to the waste of public money, and the unsettling of the people. Parliament can do much; but it rests with individuals to raise the tone of society, whether it be rich or poor. A nation must be judged by its worst as well as by its best; and it is known that, side by side with extravagant luxury, thousands are slowly starving; a man trying to support a wife and six or seven children on £1 a week, or, maybe, a widow with two or three children living on 9s. or 10s. a week.

In an essay on "Poor Law Reform," the Rev. S. A. Barnett wisely says: "The only way to deal with poverty is to put into the poor man's hands the weapons proved to be effective against poverty. These weapons are health and skill." He then goes on to point out that it would be far wiser if those who seek the shelter of the workhouse were trained, instead of being put to work that is useless, unremunerative and degrading. As to the aged poor, he believes that a pension of 5s. a week to all over 65 years of age would meet the present difficulty in regard to these expenses being met by a national tax. He has also something to say about the sick poor, every one of whom should have free access to medical treatment and care, with-

\*"The Manxman." By Hall Caine. 6s. Heinemann. 1894.

\*"Practical Socialism." By Samuel and Henrietta Barnett Longmans, Green & Co., London.

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