

guilty one. The king confronted him boldly with his crime. Half suspecting the identity of his disguised servant, Richard sent him to Saladin to secure if possible the services of Sir Kenneth, his slave, in the judicial combat that was soon to decide the truth of Richard's charge against Conrade. The knight was delighted at the prospect of a chance to vindicate himself and King Richard. The combat was held in Saladin's territory, he being in attendance with his gorgeous retinue. Conrade's guilt unnerved his arm; he was borne down at the first encounter. The truth of Richard's charge had been verified. The disgraced knight had retrieved his honor. Richard made known the fact, related to him by the hermit at the time when Sir Kenneth was about to be executed, that he was not the obscure personage supposed, but was instead Prince Royal of Scotland. Conrade's confederates were brought to justice, and the closing scene represents Richard and his friends seated at a sumptuous banquet given in their honor by their magnanimous foe, the sultan.

In this novel Scott recounts much that redounds to the honor of Saladin. And history bears him out in representing the sultan as a monarch who was generous to friend and foe, a man whose chivalric disposition was exhibited in acts of justice and mercy. But the great novelist is guilty of scarcely justifiable deception in picturing Richard, the sultan's enemy, as a man who, while his irascible temper often defeated the ends he held dearest, is to be admired for his personal bravery and his sterling soldierly qualities.

Few men whom the novelist extolls are so utterly condemned by the verdict of history as is King Richard. On the one hand he is the knight-errant chivalrously participating in combats in support of the weak; on the other hand he is the king who abandoned his realm which was distracted and racked by action, to prosecute distant enterprises merely for the sake of personal glory. At one time he may be seen in the thick of battle never flinching in the presence of danger, the terror of the enemy, and the admiration of his followers; behold him again ordering Turkish hostages to be led out by the hundreds in the presence of the sultan's army, there to be beheaded. In romance he is a hero, not unblemished, it is true, but still a hero, in history he is the one the monotonous blackness of whose infamy is appalling. It is deceptive, it is a worship of mere physical might, to be consumed even by the implication of the deeds of such a man.

Nevertheless, Scott's representation of the feuds in the Christian camp is admirable as showing the treacherous designs to which the crusaders had recourse in their desperation. The disorder, the tumult, the riotous conduct of leaders and their followers, are well exemplified by the evolution of the plot against Richard. But while in several instances the author gives one a glimpse at the corruption of the period of the Crusades, he leaves one with altogether too favorable an impression with regard to this epoch. And it is seriously to be questioned whether the delight afforded by the suppression of almost all reference to the baser side of that life is not more than offset by the failure to appreciate properly the age of which the author seeks to give one an idea.

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#### CURRENT COMMENT.

If reports are true ex-Senator Carlisle should receive the censure of all fair-minded citizens. He is figuring quite prominently as a candidate for the seat in the United States senate lately made vacant by the death of Senator Beck of Kentucky. It was at the funeral of Senator Beck that he disgraced himself. He was a member of the house committee on arrangements for the Beck funeral. When the hour for the funeral arrived it was found that he was indisposed and could not attend. During the ceremonies he lost all control of himself and appeared at the funeral intoxicated. It seems strange that he should have so little regard for his comrade in office as to appear in this disgraceful plight. If he was unable to control himself at such a time as this he is not a fit man to be given the important position of United States senator. Such a man is not an honor to so high an office.

Since the retirement of Bismark there has been no little anxiety manifested as to how the young emperor would conduct affairs without his guiding star. By his actions in the Reichstag, May 6, Emperor William made many friends, and should his ideas there set forth be realized he will make of the Germans a contented people. In Europe, as in this country, the people are agitated by labor troubles. The workingman thinks he is being trampled upon and demands his rights. The emperor holds that they should be granted to him. If the laws of Germany are such that the laboring class is not able to better its condition, he proposes to revise these laws or make new ones in order that the laborer may obtain his just dues. He believes that Sunday should be a day of rest, condemns the labor of women and children, and, in fact, desires to protect the laboring classes from every danger. Of course it is easy for a person to say how anything should be done, but it is very different to accomplish it. Especially is this true in so difficult a case as the one the emperor mentioned in the reichstag. He has shown himself to be in sympathy with his hard-working subjects, however, and with the power that he has at his command, together with the aid the people will extend to him, he will, undoubtedly accomplish a great deal. In this country the labor troubles are rapidly approaching that point when they must be adjusted. It is to be hoped that the outcome will be satisfactory and that in the near future the two countries may be able to congratulate each other on the success they have achieved in granting to the workmen their rights. In regard to the emperor's foreign policy he is simply following in the footsteps of his grandfather. He believes in making his empire "strong and great." He wishes to make alliances for defence, also to increase and strengthen the army. By voicing his views before the reichstag the emperor has relieved the people of their suspense. The feeling which has been prevalent that the empire would be weakened without Bismark at the helm will be dispelled. The views of the Emperor conform to the views of the people, hence, with ruler and subjects working in unison the empire must grow stronger, for it could only recede in case there were divisions among the people.

The movement among the laboring classes to make eight hours the length of a working day is extending to all parts of the United States. In every paper there is an account of some strike that has recently taken place in which the strikers demand that the time they devote to work shall be reduced to eight hours a day. The coal miners and carpenters have taken the lead but there are many that represent other trades who will follow. At the first glance this would seem