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main unpublished. She was in a position to hear all that went on in the great world. In the longest quotation from her correspondence entitled *Profligacy La Mode* she discusses the rights and wrongs of the Queen's case and gives Sir Walter a list of heirs to peerages who have married women of the town. In yet another of her letters, this time from Lausanne, where she finds the cost of living incredibly cheap, she says that 'Julia has been to Mont St. Bernard with Lady Hardy she dined with the monks at their Convent and walsed (sic) for them; and they sang and played for her. They are none of them above thirty and quite fine gentlemen. Their Convent is the highest habitation in the old world.' (143).

It is well known that Sir Walter was completely indifferent as to the manner in which his poems and novels were presented on the stage. Joanna Baillie, however, was determined he should know all about the *Knight of Snowdown* when it was produced at Covent Garden, for it was one of the many plays and operas adapted from the *Lady of the Lake*. In concluding a descriptive letter she says that in the last act 'the King prophesies that some *future* Poet will in deathless rime record the gallant feat of Snowdown's Knight. This last is all the notice taken of your Lordship from beginning to end!'

Use of the index to *Sir Walter's Post-Bag* has revealed its curiously undependable character. Dr. Lyons does not appear in it at all and many references are given to pages on which the indexed word is not printed. Except for this oversight *Sir Walter's Post-Bag* is very well edited and extremely interesting. Mr. Partington is to be warmly congratulated on his work.

UNA POPE-HENNESSY.

SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT. Edited by J. Alexander Symington. (Basil Blackwell; 10/6.)

This book is important not so much for the intrinsic interest of the letters contained in it as for the light it throws on some parts of Scott's career, notably the legal aspect. No future biographer (and the definitive life of Scott still remains to be written) can afford to neglect the information disclosed in it. For example it was supposed in 1817 that Sir Walter was eager to be appointed to the Scottish Exchequer Bench; we find confirmation of this in his letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, Croker, soliciting English patronage for a brother 'in the Canadas' and explaining that he is unable to plead with Scot-

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tish friends on his behalf as he needs 'to beset them' on his own account. Scott says:

'There is *entre nous* some chance of my getting a Baron's gown in the Exchequer through the warm and strong support of my feal friend the Duke of Buccleugh . . . the difference in emolument is not above £400 a year, but in respectability and in the time which a Baron's situation leaves at my disposal, besides the power of living chiefly in the country, it is very desirable and government will have £1,300 to give away, besides a pension of £300 which I would be willing to throw up.' (p. 29).

Yet another side-light is to be found in a letter to Matthew Hartstonge, who was helping him at the time over Swift. Scott reveals that even when Mr. Home, the Clerk of Session he had bargained to succeed, died, there was a hitch in his appointment:—

'A colleague in my office died and I had not only all the business to attend to, but the much more fretting and unpleasant task of soliciting, corresponding and negotiating to procure if possible the vacant situation, to which I might be considered as having some title, having done the duty of the office for five years without a guinea of emolument. I have not, however, been hitherto successful, but the object is worth some anxiety and trouble, being full £1,300.' (p. 43).

No mention is made by Lockhart of the fact that Scott saw something of Wordsworth during the time he spent in London in 1815, though we are told of meetings with Byron and Rogers. Scott, however, in writing to Southey, says:

'I left Wordsworth in London a few days since, flourishing like a green bay tree—we had some pleasant parties together, though not so many as I could have wished. The Excursion had run off very well and the White Doe was also likely to shew her speed.' (p. 8).

Of these 'parties' one would like to know more.

The book is beautifully printed and edited, and for frontispiece has a portrait of Sir Walter 'from an original in the Brotherton Library,' which appears to be derived from the Leslie portrait made at Abbotsford in 1824.

UNA POPE-HENNESSY.