

'The Gorgeous Borgia. By Justin Huntly McCarthy. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.50.

Cæsar Borgia, if not the worst and most unscrupulous of his nefarious race, was, at least, the strongest of them all. Such admiration as we can grudgingly give to talent, however misdirected, and to power, however perverted, we are compelled to grant him. In *The Gorgeous Borgia*, Mr. McCarthy has told an exciting tale of Cæsar's ruthless rise to power and his tragic downfall. By a slight perversion of fact, his death is made to occur in the castle of Sant' Angelo, as the stage of the closing scene of his cruel career, whereas, in sober truth, Cæsar escaped from the castle of Medina Del Campo, in Spain, where he had been imprisoned for two years, to the King of Navarre, whom he followed in the war against Castile, and was killed on March 12th, 1507, by a missile from the castle of Bianco. But the manner of his taking off is of less importance than the vivid picture of Rome in his day, and of his strong and somewhat perplexing personality. Mr. McCarthy depicts him as rejoicing in evil for its own sake, rather than merely using it as a tool for the furtherance of his plans. Perhaps the latter is the baser type of villainy, as it sins against greater light. The sobriety, energy, eloquence and ability of Cæsar Borgia were delineated by Machiavelli in his "Principe." Mr. McCarthy gives the reverse of the medal.