THE 'BALLET OF THE NINE NOBLES'.

In Appendix II to his edition of *The Parlement of the thre Ages*, Mr. Gollancz has re-eprinted two Scottish texts which give some account of the NNine Worthies: the one is an extract from the 'Buik of the 3 most noble and vailȝeand Conquerour Alexander the Greatt' (pp. 402—406 in Laing's edition of 1831), and the other · the short poem printed by Laing in his 'Select Remains of f the ancient popular Poetry of Scotland' (pp. 1ɛ5—191 in Snmall's edition of 1885) with the title 'Ane Ballet of the Ninine Nobles'. On comparison, it will be found that these two · texts have a most intimate connection with each other, so cl·lose indeed that it can only be accounted for by supposing thaat they are the work of the same author. Unfortunately, this ; does not help us to discover who translated the *Buik of Alexaander,* for the author of the 'Ballet' is not named in either of·f the MSS which contain it. The two points which are sufficident to establish a common authorship for the texts are: (1) · a large number of lines in the 'Ballet' are in close verbal agreement with the corresponding lines in the 'Buik': (2) ι certain lines in the 'Ballet' which differ from the 'Buik' agre·ee with the French original of this, Longuyon's *Vœux du Paon.* . The parallel texts printed below will show clearly how matteers stand in respect of both these points. I give the 'Ballet·t' in full from the earlier Edinburgh MS[1], and on the oppo·osite page the corresponding lines from the 'Buik', or, when t·this fails, from the French original.

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[1] The MS of Fordun's Chronicle, at th·he end of which the poem is found, was written either in 1447 or 1454, and t·the poem is in the same hand as the rest of the MS. The Rev. John Ande·erson, of the Register House, has very kindly collated Laing's text not onh·ly with this MS., but also with the copy preserved in Law's abbreviation ι of the *Scotichronicon,* written in 1521. The variants are noted at the bott·ttom of the page: in one or two passages Law's text has plainly a better r reading than the older MS.