

the Ohio, across the "Father of Waters" and the plains beyond, over the crest of the Rockies and the Sierra Nevadas, they went; then down to the coast, and the westward course of empire touches the shores of the great Pacific.

Still the great tide is flowing in, and to-day, Saxon Columbia, daughter of Italian Columbus, stands with open arms to welcome the world to the celebration of her four hundredth anniversary, a celebration more glorious and more stupendous than was ever thought of by man before. She stands here in her purity, at once the greatest, richest, most prosperous, highest, noblest and best nation on this earth. Her future is veiled in mist, but it is as the mists of the morning, already tinged with the glorious colors of the approaching day, when humanity, with Columbia as its queen, will hasten to that brighter, better state, the fulfillment of history.

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GOOD LITERATURE.

Before forming our opinion in regard to the merits of any writing, and before placing it among those productions belonging to the class called "Good Literature," we must convince ourselves, at least, that our judgment is reliable and unbiased by prejudices,—a state of mind rarely met with among those who pretend to distinguish between the two.

Good reading strengthens us by sustaining if not actually advancing our ideal morality. It teaches us to think and act for ourselves, and thus to exercise those faculties entrusted to our care for cultivation and improvement; stimulates our individuality, making us independent, self-reliant, God-fearing men and women. It implants a desire within our innermost consciousness to rise to a broader and nobler manhood, enthusing us by the success of others, and inspiring us with ambitions that finally permeate our whole beings, urging us on to lives of usefulness and devotion.

Such literature gives us a knowledge of the life and character of an author, for we may form a

good idea of a man by his mode of describing and dealing with different personalities. For instance, take Lord Lytton's "Earnest Maltravers." By careful reading we may easily detect the unselfish disposition, and the big kind heart of the author. By watching the evolution of the nature of Maltravers from that of a wild, romantic, German student, to one, proud, yet considerate of others, ambitious, yet not willing to attain its object by means of the least sacrifice of principle—energetic, conscientious, noble.

Maltravers, is a character deserving of careful study and most of his traits are worthy of imitation. He was a man not free from temptation, or above all human weaknesses, for, although by no means subject to his passions, he was continually reminded of their existence, and awed by their power. How to conquer them and make them subject to his will was his constant study, and his success was due, to a very great extent, to the very effort, which not only served to comfort him in times of disappointment, but to strengthen his will, and give him additional self-command and strength of character.

Good Literature is to the intellect what good company is to the morals. We are not only pleased with its surface qualities, as we may call them, which tend to gratify our fancy, but we are also benefitted by its moral virtues and christian principles. We are transported, as it were, from this world of selfish ambition and idolatry, to one of noble manhood and noble womanhood, where our better selves may, for a time, find companions more congenial to their natures, and yet to a world not so much beyond this as to seem unnatural or unreal, but to one that we might easily suppose had, by degrees, grown out of the old one; where honor and virtue are prized rather than wealth and social position, and where christian purity and undying truth reign supreme.

How much more sensible to cultivate taste for reading that will broaden and deepen the intellect, direct and chasten its maturity, and soften and har-