

pretence of zeal for liberty, he became the meanest of all the tools of despotism.

It is not easy to settle the order of precedence among his vices; but we are inclined to think that his baseness was on the whole, a rarer and more marvellous thing than his cruelty."

These few short and incomplete extracts will convey some idea of the wealth of invective contained in our English classics.

What student does not recognize the great accomplishment of being able to wield a trenchant pen in defence of one's own actions and cherished principles? Can any position be more unenviable than that of the professional man be he lay or cleric, who is unable to enter the field of controversy and aid in exposing the slanderer and vindicating the truth. We know of no better training than a study of such works as those from which we have quoted.

It may be said that invective is uncharitable, but this objection carries no weight. How often do we find, in people young and old that, folly which refuses to be corrected by blame or punishment, may laughed or derided into shame.

"Satire" says Pope, has always
shone among the rest
And is the boldest way, if not the
best,
To tell men freely of their faults;
To laugh at their vain deeds and
vainer thoughts."

To us the study of these authors has afforded great pleasure and practical benefit, and if we shall have succeeded by the writing of this essay in inducing even one of our readers to systematically enter on this line of study, we shall feel that our efforts have not been in vain.

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