

ways by which this end may be reached. In the first place, that dictum of Pope, which slightly modified, has seemed to form a part of the intellectual creed of most of us:

"Let each teach others who themselves excel,
And censure freely who have spoken well,"

must go once for all. It is not necessary to show both the impracticability of working according to this, and the fallacy of the principle it involves. Needless to say, that to work according to this law itself would diminish our stock of critics fifty per cent, and that the principle it involves would, if universally applied, prevent us from pronouncing on a bad egg until we had made a good one. Yet is not this principle the one which is obtained in many instances, when one remembers that men have felt aggrieved when their work has been criticised by one less capable of creating a better fabric than that in which he presumed to find such glaring defects? We forget that the critical power of the intellect often reaches its culmination when dissociated from the creative power. Why cannot the critic have the courage to avail himself of the opportunities afforded by his office to challenge the appropriateness of an expression which he thinks inaccurate or inappropriate? He may make mistakes sometimes, we all make mistakes, but it is not absolutely necessary that he should always speak positively, if I am a judge in this matter. His every utterance need not be *ex cathedra*, if indeed any need be. If the one criticised is right, then the critic will learn a lesson, but if the critic is right then the one criticised will learn a lesson, while the audience in most instances will learn a little bit. All then are benefited, some having their right opinion more firmly established, others having their wrong opinion set aright.

It may be thought that a senior would consider it a great humiliation if he found himself wrong in his criticism of some expression or statement of a junior, but surely in our Literary Society we can meet on the same level and enjoy mutual benefits. Nothing would be more helpful in toning up our general knowledge and in begetting a lively interest in our society than criticism made for the sole purpose of benefiting all, the critic included. Away with anything like