

whether we regard its variety, its perfection of form, its wealth of ideas, or its unique development. On the other hand, the literatures of modern Europe have, in comparison, the advantage of being much less difficult of access. Among them, in virtue of its nearness to our sympathies, its wealth of modern ideas, and their profound application to life by the greatest poet of later times, the German literature claims us first. But, after all, the wide, varied and splendid literature open to all of us in our mother-tongue is a sufficient instrument of literary culture, and from it, at any rate, we must begin. Literary taste and love of books must first be developed there ; for, to close with a very true remark of Professor Huxley—"If an Englishman cannot get literary culture out of his Bible, his Shakespeare, his Milton, neither will the profoundest study of Homer and Sophocles, Virgil and Horace give it to him."

