

suscitated a resonance through the empyrean, to the consummate discomfiture of the stolid pelebeians. A Caucasian of mediocre finesse, making his debut with great eclat and prematurely construing this exoteric logomachy, jaculated the contents of his splenetic mind at the contestants and caused a rise of corporeal gyrations by giving an ill-starred wiseacre a dolorous poniard wound in the abdomen. Ovate apricots, coral eggs, was-sail-cups, greasy water, and guttapercha vases were clandestinely extruded from the hearths and alcoves of isolated artificers and pygmean mechanists; but these extraordinary efforts simultaneously begrimed the spectators and advertised the lamentable drama and the sacrilegious dramatis-personæ. It was bootless often to quote the tripartite law to which they were amenable and add exhortations with the design to exorcise or extirpate, by its harassing truths, these thaumaturgical orthoepists and implacable logomachists. At length the truculent actors became exhausted, and when languor inhibited a promulgation of fisticuffs, an objurgatory financier supported the irrevocable and irreparable exactions accessory to a romance indicatory of indecorous intrigue and termagant tergiversation. This obligatory quittance of deficits caused objective grimaces to demonstrate their pique towards these supererogatory patrons. Contrary to their predilections some with complaisant deportment sought an incognito pharmacoplist and homoeopathist in quest of quinine and the best cataplasms and catholicons extant for cicatrizing grievous ankylosis and jugular bronchitis, while others were tremendously covetous for morphine and unctuous soporifics that they might be immobile recluses until the integral subsidence of the legend-like tumultuation; but in vain did they augur that eremitage would produce a lethean influence, for both telegraphy and photography had been uninterrupting in their sedulity, and during the same interstitial molecules of time the laws of phonics had published the rencounter in Uranus as the most behemoth-like malfecance of the decade.

Those aspirants who are solicitous to elude compagination with that coterie which is obnoxious to the anatomizing introspection of Argus-eyed denizens, should eschew the insidious glamour and delusory charlatanry of supervacaneous and nugatory contestation.

#### A WORD TO BOOK-LOVERS.

Ours is an age when the press is actively engaged in the spread of wholesome literature. We can scarcely take up a paper of any note without having our attention directed to several works of recent publication. By the "American Book Exchange" and the publications of the *Standard Series*, the choicest literature is placed within easy reach of all. This literary revolution which has put *treasure* on an equal footing with *trash* in point of cost, should affect a revolution in the thought, the intelligence, and the virtue of the people.

Out of this multiplicity and cheapness of books grows the necessity of applying the eclectic principle. It is impossible for any one at this period to read and digest a tithe even of what are considered standard works. There is much in our literature of what may be called good, inasmuch as it is adapted to please and to benefit, which nevertheless ought not to be read. We cannot afford to spend time in reading a book which will be in a measure beneficial to us, when there is at our disposal another book upon the same subject which may be perused with much greater advantage. The sooner one arrives at the conclusion that he can read but a small portion of what has been written in his own tongue, and but a small portion of what he would like to read, the better it will be for him. The benefits accruing to the reader are not commensurate with the amount read, but with the careful perusal of judicious selections.

As long as two hundred and fifty years ago, Sir Thomas Browne expressed the wish that there might be a general council held for the purpose of collecting all books in one heap, and consigning it to the flames after taking