

Book' was soon published and became very popular. Rip Van Winkle being one of the most important sketches. This work brought him £400. He was our first favorite among the English writers of the age, and none the less so for being born in America. His "Life and voyages of Columbus" was published in 1828, and "Brace Bridge Hall," 1832. After seventeen years of English life, Irving returned to America, and was received by his friends with great cordiality who gave him a public dinner at the City Hotel. He traveled some time west and wrote a book entitled: "A tour on the Prairies," which was published 1835. Not long after his return to the United States, Irving was applied to by John Jacob Astor to write about the settlement of Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia river. He declined, but recommended his nephew, Pierre Monroe Irving, as one who might aid him in preparing materials, in which case he would have no objections to putting the finishing touch to the work. The pair commenced their joint labors at the country house of John Jacob Astor, at Hell's Gate. They did well and in 1836 "Astoria" was published. In course of his home travels shortly after his return to America, Irving saw a rural site at Tarrytown on the Hudson which struck his fancy. It consisted of ten acres, when he purchased it in the summer of 1835, and contained a cottage about a century old, which he concluded to rebuild into a rookery in the old dutch style. He accordingly sent up an architect and workmen who built him a stone house of considerable cost, in which, surrounded by Christmas greens, he was settled with his brother in 1837. In this cosy mansion which he at first called, "Wolfert's Roost," and afterward "Sunny Side," he finished "The Adventures of Captain Bonneville." Two political honors were offered Irving in his fifty-fifth year; one being a nomination as Mayor of New York, the other the appointment of Secretary of the Navy,

from President Van Buren. He accepted neither, preferring the quiet peace of his cottage and the society of his friends and relatives. He was appointed Minister to Spain, and embarked for Europe for the third time, April 10, 1841. He met with the royalty and was cordially welcomed. He grew so tired of his duty he resigned his position and returned to America in 1846, and September 19, returned to Sunny Side. He wrote "The Life of Washington," and published it a few months before his death. The young lady to whom he was attached in his youth, died at the age of eighteen which darkened his life to a great extent. He died the 28th of Nov. 1859, and was buried in Sleepy Hollow cemetery, where the brook flows just fast enough, and murmurs loud enough to cause sweet sleep, and the birds rest among the branches of the trees, and sing over the grave of our much esteemed author.

Ohun Bryant says :

His youth was innocent ; his riper age

Marked with some act of goodness every day;
And watched by eyes that loved him, calm and
sage,

Faded his late declining years away.
Meekly he gave his being up, and went
To share the holy rest that waits a life well
spent.

GREAT WRITERS AND THEIR ART.

Dogberry declared that to write and read comes by nature ; and if we but interpret him rightly, he was perfectly justified in his opinion. It will be remembered, however, that Pope thought somewhat differently. In one of his most celebrated couplets he has it that:

True ease in writing comes from art not chance,
As those move easiest who have learned to
dance.

At first, it might seem that the two