

the lines or couplets to their true paternity. It is the simple intelligible truth of these passages that fixes them so firmly on the popular memory, and renders them so easy of reproduction. If they were more poetical, or more profound, they would be less current amongst us. The sustained popularity of Cowper's writings is a fact very creditable to Englishmen. Within the last few months three new and handsome editions of his poems have been contemporaneously appearing. He is emphatically an English poet; he represents, indeed, the best side of the English character; but he is entirely and exclusively English. No other country could have produced such a poet; and in no other country would he have been equally popular. We take him to our hearts fearlessly, trustfully. There is scarcely a library in the kingdom containing a hundred volumes in which Cowper has no place. His poems are the earliest which English children learn by rote. They are food alike for tender nurslings and for strong men. We may not be very enthusiastic over them. They do not excite us to any prodigious height of admiration—perhaps they do not often stir any profound depth of emotion within us; but we always approve, we always trust, we always sympathise with, we always love, we are always grateful to the poet. It is the proud distinction of William Cowper that he never led any man astray—that no one ever studied his writings without being wiser and better for the study—that no English parent in his sound senses ever hesitated, or ever will hesitate, to place Cowper's poems in the hands of his child. We are thankful that there is a sufficiency of good healthy English taste and feeling amongst us to keep alive the popularity of such writers as William Cowper. We are not unmindful of the claims of poets of another class. They write under different influences, and they have their reward. Even the writers of what is now called the "spasmodic school" are entitled to some consideration, and may be too severely handled. But let what schools, may rise and fall—come jauntily into fashion for a little while, to be hooted down as quickly—the good English thought and English diction of William Cowper will still keep their place amongst us; and still as we speak reverently and affectionately of him who did so much to swell the happiness of others but could never secure his own, it will be our boast that the most English of our poets was emphatically the most Christian.—*North British Review*.

TRUE NOBILITY.

"I do not know," Wilberforce often said, "a finer instance of the moral sublime than that a poor cobbler, working in his stall, should conceive the idea of converting the Hindoos to Christianity; yet such was Dr. Carey. Why, Milton's planning 'Paradise Lost' in his old age and blindness, was nothing to it. And then when he had gone to India, and was appointed by Lord Wellesley to a lucrative and honourable station in the College of Fort William, with equal nobleness of mind he made over all his salary, between £1000 and £1500 per annum, to the general object of the mission. By the way, nothing ever gave me a more lively sense of the low and mercenary standard of your men of honour, than the manifest effect produced upon the *House of Commons* by my stating this last circumstance. It seemed to me the only thing that moved them."—*Life of Wilberforce*.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

REV. WILLIAM INNES, D.D.

This truly venerable man, died at Edinburgh, on the 3rd of March, in the 85th year of his age, and 62nd of his ministry. About four weeks before, when visiting a sick-bed, he met with an accident, and never recovered. Dr. Innes, whose father was a minister of the Church of Scotland, was ordained as a minister of that Church at Stirling, where he continued until 1799, when he resigned, and became a Congregationalist, proposing to go with the celebrated Robert Haldane, to Bengal. The East India Company having prevented this, he settled in Dundee, as a Pastor and Theological Tutor. About ten years afterwards, he removed to Edinburgh. By and by, he embraced Baptist principles, and continued to the close of life, Pastor of a free communion church of that denomination. He was remarkably catholic and liberal in his views and feelings, a lover of good men, forward to every good work, and universally esteemed and respected. He was as superior to the Haldanes in temper and spirit, as he was inferior in energy and talent.