

He could describe virtue, vice, habit, and whims: but more, he could call beings into existence, exhibit them, and faithfully portray their characters. Addison's best portraits admirably and vividly drawn are worthy a Shakespeare or Cervantes.

The service rendered society by Addison's essays was marvellous; true, the age of licentiousness succeeding the restoration had passed away, yet there lingered incorrect notions of morality which Addison alone dispelled. Addison believed it easier to revolutionize England by laughing than by preaching, and brought about the revolution without one personal lampoon.

In Venice, Addison had witnessed a miserable play on the death of Cato; doubtlessly this incident suggested the subject for his tragedy, "Cato," which contains passages of great dignity and noble and patriotic sentiment. A noted critic says: "Cato is an imposing work of art, with the grace and majesty, and also the lifelessness of a statue."

Though the play is lost in oblivion, Cato's soliloquy has bestowed "immortal youth" upon its gifted author.

Addison has been the subject of one of the finest of Macaulay's essays; we cannot do better than give his opinion of this greatest of satirists.

"To the influence which Addison derived from his literary talents, was added all the influence which arises from character. The world, always ready to think the worst of needy political adventurers, was forced to make one exception. Restlessness, violence, audacity, laxity of principle, are the vices ordinarily attributed to that class of men. But faction itself could not deny that Addison had, through all changes of fortune, been strictly faithful to his early opinions, and to his early friends; that his integrity was without stain; that his whole deportment indicated a fine sense of the becoming; that in the utmost heat of controversy, his zeal was tempered by a regard for truth, humanity and social decorum; that no outrage could ever provoke him to retaliation unworthy of a Christian and a gentleman; and that his only faults were a too sensitive delicacy, and a modesty which amounted to bashfulness."

"He was undoubtedly one of the most popular men of his time, and much of his

popularity he owed, we believe, to that very timidity which his friends lamented. That timidity often prevented him from exhibiting his talents to the best advantage. But it propitiated Nemesis. It averted that envy which would otherwise have been excited by a fame so splendid, and by so rapid an elevation."

"No man is so great a favorite with the public as he who is at once an object of admiration, of respect, and of pity, and such were the feelings which Addison inspired."

### IMPRESSIONS.

BEFORE introducing the prepared paper into the press, the printers pay careful heed that no foreign matter is allowed to remain upon it which will in any way prevent the machine from leaving a perfect impression. No correct impression of a thing can be made on any mind that is not perfectly strong and healthy, even though part of the mind may be in a condition sound enough to receive it, the deceased ideas of the remaining portion will soon affect the good; just as a decayed apple will in time destroy a whole barrelful of sound ones. Upon such a mind the characters and occurrences met with in every day life are unnaturally reflected, just as the appearance of objects is distorted in an imperfect mirror.

People with happy tempers and bright hopes are not liable to receive these wrong impressions, but almost always see things in their best and truest light. Untrammelled by a morbid selfishness they can look upon things as they are, not as they would, or would not have them be. But unhappy people possessing bodily health need not despair of being able in time to add to it strength and soundness of mind.

Childhood is more readily impressed than any other age. A child's mind is freely open to all impressions, and, being unformed, it is easy to mould it in any direction; but evil will in a little while so harden it, and so blunt its sensibilities, that good will no longer take effect.

The "great unwashed," might in one sense be termed "children of a larger growth," though not in the sense in which the quotation is commonly accepted. Like children they are ignorant, but from choice,