

he would there meet some congenial spirit, who, with the advantages of College instruction, might be able to assist him on in his more rugged path. This hope, if ever indulged, appears to have been disappointed; for we have in his own words, the course of study which he pursued during the following winter, and there certainly is nothing in it to indicate that assistance of any kind was enjoyed. Here is Burritt's account of how this winter was spent:—

“As soon as the man who attended to the fires had made one in the sitting room, which was at about half-past four in the morning, I arose and studied German till breakfast, at half-past seven. When the boarders were gone to their places of business, I sat down to Homer's *Iliad*, without note or comment to assist, and with a Greek and Latin lexicon. Before they came in to their dinner, I put away all my Greek and Latin, and began reading Italian, which was less calculated to attract the attention of the noisy men, who at that hour thronged the room. After dinner I sat down again to the *Iliad*. . . . In the evening I read in the Spanish language until bed time. I followed this course for two or three months, at the end of which time I had read about the whole of the *Iliad* in Greek, and made considerable progress in French, Italian, German, and Spanish.”

In the Spring he returned to his native town, intending to work at his trade, but he was by this time becoming known, and was offered the management of a grammar school, which he accepted. The sedentary nature of this employment, however, accorded but ill with his herculean frame, and at the end of a year he had to relinquish his charge.

Shortly after this, Mr. Burritt travelled for a New England Manufacturing Company. Railroads were but few in those days, and the greater part of his journeys were made on horseback. This occupation not only restored his health, but furnished new opportunities for the prosecution of his favourite studies. The study of Hebrew he began and pursued while travelling on horse back through some of the beautiful valleys of the Northern States.

It has been truly said by one to whom the subject of this sketch was familiar that “Burritt is not a mind to stand still or to be satisfied with the attainment of the nearest goal; there is still always a goal beyond, and that must also be reached.” At the period to which we have brought down our outline of his life, Burritt had mastered, untaught, and not only unassisted, but in the face of all obstacles, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Spanish, Italian, French and German, and yet he saw a goal beyond. But with him goals attained were but new starting points, and having at this period of his history mastered the languages of the West, Burritt's, with that instinct which has guided all great men from Alexander to Napoleon, turned to the East. Oriental literature was still to him a sealed book, and this seal Burritt determined to break. But the means—the books, he had not; and America could not furnish what he thought he required. Did this—[to a man of his means a serious obstacle] deter Burritt from the prosecution of his scheme? No!—But let us tell this part of the story in the words of the writer whose memoir of the Blacksmith we are, in this article trying to condense—“To overcome this difficulty he