

tained in it are apt to be smothered by the vast encumbrance of the temporary. The novels of Charles Reade and Charles Kingsley do not get down into the motives, passions, and remorses of life as do those of Victor Hugo and some of George Eliot's. If we change the names and places of some of these latter novels, they picture the man of the tenth century as well as the man of the twentieth.

Considering these facts, I think the authors most deserving of mention are Goldwin Smith (1823- ), and John Ruskin (1819-1900), as the best models; Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859), and George Eliot (1820-1881), as their most noted contemporaries; and Joseph Addison (1672-1719), as the most noted predecessor.

By far the best writer of English Prose now living, if not the best in the Victorian Era, is Goldwin Smith, who now resides in Toronto. Although about seventy-eight years of age, he still denounces militarism and jingoism as forcibly and as severely as ever. He is an authority on all great questions, but more especially on History; indeed, in this sphere he is undoubtedly the ripest scholar on this continent. In judgment he is very independent and in style he is very original.

His style, coupled with an utter absence of mannerisms, has a pleasing effect on his readers. He has at his command a great variety of expression, using the different kind of sentences so as to give the greatest force and power to his thoughts. In this way he also avoids monotony.

Like Carlyle and Ruskin he may be regarded as a true prophet. He is decidedly opposed to war and militarism; and to him strife between nations is wasteful, and party politics useless. He regards the late South African and Spanish American wars as unjust, claiming that they were fought from a motive of greed—the acquisition of more territory. He therefore endeavors to show the folly of war, and of party government.

Although we may disagree with him in some of his conclusions, yet we cannot help admiring his consistency, his honesty and his earnestness. Some critics have severely criticised his works. They accuse him of having a defective