

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.

GOLDSMITH.

OLIVER Goldsmith, the second son of the Rev. Chas. Goldsmith, was born 1728, at Pallas, in the parish of Forney, county of Longford, Ireland. A couple of years later the father removed with his family to a more lucrative position in the village of Lissoy, county of Westmeath. Goldsmith's father is pretty faithfully sketched in the Character of the Village Preacher. He is also regarded as the original of the "Man in Black," in the *Citizen of the World*.

Owing to the expense of educating the eldest son, the parents intended bringing up Oliver to some mercantile employment. He first received instructions from the school-master of Lissoy, Paddy Byrne—the original of the "Schoolmaster," in *The Deserted Village*. He early manifested an indolent disposition, but evidences of genius attracted the interest of his friends, some of whom resolved to furnish the means for giving him a University training.

In 1744 he was sent to Trinity College, Dublin, and after a very irregular, and by no means illustrious course, he received his B. A. in 1749.

His father died about this time, and his uncle, Rev. Wm. Contarine, became his patron. Hitherto he had distinguished himself more by his love of revelry and gambling than by any literary attainments. After vain attempts in theology, teaching and law, he left Ireland in 1752 and went to Edinburgh to study medicine. He remained there a year and a-half and then went to Germany, intending to finish his medical course at Leyden. Having squandered his means in gam-

bling, he was obliged to leave Leyden in a year. He then undertook the tour of Europe on foot. The trying experiences of this tour and the observations he made during it, are woven into several of his works, especially the *Vicar of Wakefield* and *The Traveller*. At Padua, in Italy, he is thought to have taken his medical degree.

In about 1756 his uncle's patronage was withdrawn and he was obliged thenceforth to supply himself with means by his own exertions. He returned from Italy to London, and there while suffering great want and enduring the severest hardships, he vainly endeavored to find profitable employment. He wrote for booksellers, contributed to magazines, and even for a time served as usher in a school. During the years thus passed in toil and obscurity, many of his best works were written. *The Traveller*, published in 1765, first established his reputation as an author, and from that time his works were universally read and were easily disposed of at a good price. Yet still his improvident habits kept him constantly in debt, and obliged him to make great exertions to meet demands upon him, and even to draw often in advance upon works that he was yet to write. Hence most of his works are prose hastily written to procure money, of which he stood much in need. His poetical works were written chiefly in leisure moments that he could spare from his essay or historical writing.

THE DESERTED VILLAGE.

"This poem, after having been repeatedly announced and as often withdrawn for further revision, was at