

Literary.

Webster.

American biography must generally be provincial. Down to the time of the revolution we are confused by having to follow thirteen different threads, and since that time there has attached to all their public men a local rather than a national celebrity. Many men of high talents, worthy to fill the highest places in the national councils have, with the exception of one or two appearances at Washington, passed unknown beyond their own State. In England the case is different. There, locality makes no appreciable difference. Two reasons for this provincialism have been suggested, one, the division of America into States, the other the want of any great and acknowledged centre of national life and thought.

But the fame of Daniel Webster is not confined within State boundaries. It was said of him that his country was "honoured in a citizen who is received with the acclamations of the world." It need not be feared that provincial narrowness will measure the fame of America's greatest statesman, a man so much admired, that his friends could affirm that the word "President" would have dimmed his name. But, when we are told that this man, who for a long time was a Cabinet minister and a master mind of the world, rose from humble circumstances to his high position, we become anxious to observe and study the gradations of his upward career.

In the New Hampshire home of his Puritan parents, Webster spent the early years of his life. Here, during the sum-