

tages, which a man can otherwise seldom expect, without the dear-bought experience of real life.

Some may object that it is a crude sort of knowledge that is picked up in this way ; and I do not, for a moment, contend that it should take the place of the severe mental discipline of school or college ; but, when the young man escapes from the charge of his tutors, and fairly commences the business of life, is it not highly creditable that he should find time from the hours of daily business, or nightly dissipation, to turn to the pure delights of Literature, which do not tend to diminish his capacity for the desk, or the counting-house, but do much to render him more fit for all the duties of life ?

To any one, whose aim is to acquire a mastery over his mother tongue, either with the mere desire of having a weapon of such consummate power at his command, or requiring it as the means of earning his daily bread, or, perhaps, influenced by the nobler wish—to convey lessons of heavenly wisdom, and eternal truth to his fellow men—to such an one, the incessant practice, and constant training of a Debating Club, are of an inestimable value. In this mimic Parliament the faculties are quickened, ideas flow, and the tongue wags easily. Here that noblest instrument—the sweet human voice—is attuned to its most perfect harmony, and taught to captivate the ear by its most potent spells. Here, too, the young man, who has an over-estimate of his own powers, is soon made to find his level ; while the modest and diffident, are not long in losing their timidity, and gaining self-reliance. What is more exciting than to share in the throbbings of a young Debater, who, as he