

pelted by hail, and deafened by thunders; but when he emerges beyond them, reaches a clear and untroubled region; so the soul uplifted by contemplation and *faith* may leave the earth, break through the clouds which environ it, and dwell in a bright and serene atmosphere, above the reach of those passions, cares, and controversies which perplex the region below. Yes, it is indeed well to be conversant with such thoughts, better than to be filled with Homer, or Virgil, whose thoughts are frequently here introduced even in a religious discourse. (Did I say thoughts? I beg pardon, I should rather call them "chantered lines.") But the Psalmist says, (Psalm exix, 72) (שׁוֹב לִי הוֹרֵר פִּיךָ) and our blessed Saviour says, "If ye continue in my *word*, then are ye *my disciples* indeed," (John viii. 31). We then conclude,—Blessed be God! who has prepared such an element for us storm-tossed mortals in His Holy Word, and given us wings to raise to it.

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### Portfolio of Select Literature.

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#### MAN, THE ARCHITECT OF HIS OWN FORTUNE.\*

BY THE REV. J. H. JOHNSON, M. A.

In speaking of man as the architect of his own fortune, we must not overlook the circumstance of differences arising from birth. Some belong to what are called "noble parents,"—of aristocratic, perhaps royal extraction, while others are born in obscurity, and but for their own unaided efforts, would never enjoy even the opportunity to attain distinction. There are two methods by which these classes are usually viewed. The one view is that taken by Whang, the Miller, in one of Goldsmith's tales, who regarded the nobility and the wealthy as alone worthy of his esteem, looking down upon all plebians, and upon the poor as objects of commiseration or contempt. The other view is exactly the reverse of this. It has become the fashion with some to underrate everything of noble origin, and to regard great talents as necessarily associated with poverty and humble beginnings. To the latter belonged the English Commons, when they beheaded the king, and abolished the House of Lords. The French Revolution, sweeping away, as it did, every vestige of royalty and nobility, and introducing so-called equality throughout the social fabric, exemplified the same principle. And the democratic theory leads to this conclusion.

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\* Extract from an unpublished Lecture, delivered before the Mechanics' Institute, Brockville, February 10th, 1860.