

McGill University, Montreal.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE (FIRST YEAR COURSE).

PROFESSOR CHAS. E. MOYSE, B.A.

SUBJECTS.

The characteristics of Literature—the connection between Literature and History—the divisions of English Literature—the peopling of Europe and Britain.

Celtism and Teutonism.

Celtism—its relation to history and literature—the characteristics of the Celt—his artistic faculty—the qualities of his literature—its imagination—delicacy—colour—melancholy—humour.

Teutonism—*Béowulf*—its subject—its Homeric quality—characteristics of the Teuton—his sense of duty—comparisons between his other qualities and that of the Celt.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

I

All, that is literature, seeks to communicate power; all, that is not literature, to communicate knowledge. Now, if it be asked what is meant by communicating power, I in my turn would ask by what name a man would designate the case in which I should be made to feel ~~vividly~~ and with a vital consciousness, emotions which ordinary life rarely ~~never~~ supplies occasions for exciting, and which had previously lain unawakened, and hardly within the dawn of consciousness—as myriads of modes of feeling are at this moment in every human mind for want of a poet to organize them. I say, when these inert and sleeping forms are organized—when these possibilities are actualized,—is this conscious and living possession of mine *power*.—Thomas DeQuincey. *Letters to a young man whose Education has been neglected.*

II.

But a book is written not to multiply the voice merely, not to carry it merely, but to perpetuate it. The author has something to say which he perceives to be true and useful or helpfully beautiful.