

unselfish as to renounce self for humanity, who allowed his intellect to wither beneath the hot sun of labour. Out upon him! He should have retired to his selfish den to spend his declining years in licking his palsied paws, and mumbling with toothless gums any remnants of consolation the jackals chose to leave!"

Ruskin's greatest glory is his Divine fire; his greatest virtue, fearless exposition of what he thought the truth. Many a one has he led to the light in art and literature. Not that he was faultless, but that his very faults in some men would have been virtues, and his aim was as high as a man's aim can be. Many a striving spirit has he led to literature, as a lover to his dearest mistress, unveiling all its hidden beauties, laying bare the souls of words, painting with inimitable felicity deathless pictures of power and peace and pathos and all perfections, and making his disciples purer, humbler, better men and women. Without preaching prudery he taught chastity, taught it as the cunning hand insinuates the light by deepening the shadow, suggests the shadow by strengthening the light; taught it sometimes emblematically, sometimes paradoxically, sometimes mysteriously, but even in his mystery was strength, and light and beauty.

To quote his own powerful words: "All noble language-mystery is reached only by intense labour. Striving to speak with uttermost truth of expression, weighing word against word, and wasting none, the great speaker, or writer, toils first into perfect intelligibility, then, as he reaches to higher subjects, and still more concentrated and wonderful utterance, he becomes ambiguous—as Dante is ambiguous—half a dozen different meanings lightning out in separate rays from every word, and here and there giving rise to much contention of critics as to what the intended meaning actually was. But it is no drunkard's babble for all that, and the men who think it so at the third hour of the day do not highly honour *themselves* in the thought."

Pure, enthusiastic, unselfish, a friend to man and the confidant of women, Ruskin stands to-day the greatest master of English prose, as he is the greatest exponent of original thought and fearless truth in his special field of labour, and, please God, in spite of detractors and sticklers, for the chaste, to the last gasp will he stand, until word painting shall become an obsolete art, truth a parody, and culture and virtue barren dissyllables, mere jargons of meaningless and incoherent articulations.

THE FUNCTION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL.*

PROF. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD has reminded us that the secondary school is the most ancient of existing educational institutions. It antedates the university by several centuries, and by its side the primary or elementary school, springing as it does from

needs and ideas that are comparatively modern, seems but a creature of yesterday. Moreover, the history of the secondary school is unbroken and easily traceable. The Monastery Schools and the famous establishments at St. Gall, Reichenau and Fulda are the direct ancestors of our Etons and Rugbys, of our contempor-

* A Paper read before the New York Schoolmasters' Association, March 8, 1890.