



JEALOUSY; OR, THE GREAT SENATOR'S PICTURE AND LITTLE GRIT BOYS

person. In another respect these dramas are calculated to impart false views of life, and present a distorted conception of the times and manners they are intended to illustrate. The author persists in putting blank verse into the mouths of nearly all his characters. This, we submit, is not, to use his own language, "holding a mirror up to nature," but the reverse. Nobody ever talked in the stilted, highfalutin fashion in which he makes his Henrys and Cæsars, his Hamlets and Romeos converse. It tends to give the whole an air of unreality which must seriously detract from the interest of the dramas when put on the stage. There is a great deal of literary merit in many of these plays, but we think that Mr. Shakespeare would probably have done himself more justice as a poet or an essayist than in putting his ideas into their present form. The rant and sensationalism which he has introduced in order to tickle the vulgar taste, are in marked contrast with the genuine philosophy and sound morality to which he frequently gives expression.

*Progress and Poverty, by Henry George.*

It is frequently asserted that American humor has fallen off considerably of late, and those who are of that opinion will have it confirmed by a perusal of this work. The author is not nearly equal to Artemus Ward, Mark Twain, or Nashy. There is indeed a strain of wit in his remarks concerning the identity of interest between capital and labor, and his proposition to make land common property is a fine stroke of satire, but as a whole his fun is somewhat forced. In common with other American humorists he evinces a lack of good taste in the selection of his subjects for jest and sarcasm. There is nothing particularly humorous in the increase of poverty. How would Mr. George like to be poor himself?

*Marmion—a Work for the use of Schools.*  
By Sir Walter Scott.

The author's descriptive talent and rhythmic skill is a good deal ahead of his political acumen. In our country a writer who evinced such a reckless disregard of the Catholic vote would never, by any possibility, have attained the honor of knighthood. While it may be true, as an abstract matter of history, that perjured nuns sometimes incurred the penalty of imprisonment, every tyro in politics must

admit that it is inexpedient to recall the fact about election time, and as elections recur with frequency, it is obvious that Marmion is ill-adapted for politico-educational purposes. How can the youth of our country be expected to succeed in the arena of politics unless they are taught to conciliate the Catholic vote? Marmion is N. G. What is the use of calling a man a vassal slave of Bloody Rome who has a good square vote?

*Savings Bank Book.*

This little brochure is a book of interest. Its language is highly figurative, and its every page abounds with capital suggestions. Though somewhat dolorous in its tone, it is nevertheless a creditable production, and furnishes an account which may be thoroughly relied on. No family should be without it.

We were telling legends round the fire after the fashion of the characters in that wicked poem, "Marmion," only our narratives did not relate so much to "scenes of elfin chivalry" as to the odd characters we had met in real life. "There's a queer old man lives out our way," said Jennie. "He was driving along a narrow road one day, and suddenly came to a dead stand-still, remaining so several hours before a stranger came along to inquire the cause of the stoppage. "Why, you see," said the odd old fellow, "this is a splendid place to turn out, and as there are so few good places to turn out on this road I just hated to waste it."

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