
OBITUARY.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we record the death of our fellow school-mate Heber McKean, which occurred at his father's residence on Waterloo St., early in the present month. He was very much liked, and his loss is universally mourned by the scholars of the Grammar School.

For the GAZETTE.

AN ESSAY ON ADDISON.—1672-1719.

Dr. Johnson thinks it an injustice not to trace the life of eminent men through their boyhood as regards education. I will just briefly state the different schools of which this writer was a scholar. First he was at Lichfield under Mr. Shaw. Next he entered the Chartreux under Dr. Ellis, and here he first formed his acquaintance with Sir Richard Steele who was co-partner with him in most of his writings. In 1687 he entered Queen's College in Oxford, where having distinguished himself, he was elected in Magdalen College as a Demy.

Addison's first step to popular fame was made by his Latin compositions in which he seems to have formed his own style.

Addison, though a popular man, still did not appear in public like other men of his rank. He was generally to be found at Wil's, St. James', or some of the leading coffee-houses, where he would by some stimulant drive away his timidity, and put on more courage to enable him to speak, which he did but seldom. Thus says he, "I live in the world rather as a spectator of mankind than as one of the species; by which means I have made myself a speculative statesman, soldier, merchant, and artisan without even meddling with any practical part in life;" and furthermore, he says, "I observe an exact neutrality between the Whigs and Tories."

There are three very material points which Addison was wont to conceal, which are: an account of his name, age and lodgings. I will now pass to some of Addison's writings of which there are many; but I refer to those in the *Spectator* which are written by Addison himself, as Sir Roger and his Club. The first of this club as we may suppose, was Sir Roger de Coverley, a Worcestershire gentleman of ancient descent, a Baronet, whose great-grandfather was the inventor of that famous dance which is called after him. He is a gentle-

man very singular in his behavior. He was a bachelor by reason of his being crossed in love by a perverse, beautiful widow of the next county to him. Sir Roger was justice of the quorum. The other gentlemen of the club were of high position in life, as Sir Andrew Freeport, a London merchant of great eminence. He it was who called the sea the British Common, and was full of maxims such as "a penny saved is a penny got." Next to Sir Andrew in the club room was Captain Sentrey, a gentleman of great courage and understanding. Here we also find Will Honeycomb, a gentleman who though he had seen three-score years and ten, seemed to be but fifty, and his peculiar fame was that of knowing the fair sex more than any one else. The names of the remaining two of the club were not given but one of them was a chaplain. "These men," says Addison, "are my ordinary companions."

Addison unfortunately married the Countess Dowager of Warwick, who, so to speak, was the mistress over him, and over whom Addison himself had no control. Here also Addison may be likened to the former of this selection in being unlucky or not happy as regards matrimonial life. Sir Roger, sorry to relate, was not fortunate enough to gain for himself a consort though he eagerly sought, but in vain.

Addison's writings in the *Spectator* are indeed very humorous, and more so by reason of their being related to Sir Roger, who himself was a very humorous and quaint gentleman, that spoke to or saluted every one he met either by land or sea. Upon one occasion he was visiting Spring Gardens, and was in turn complimented by the expression, "what queer old *Put* was that in the boat."

Another paper of Addison's abounding with his peculiar character of style and humor, is Sir Roger's visit to the Abbey in which the scenes described and the humorous sayings are such as would really occur, and not as some would fancy to occur. As Dr. Johnson says, "he never deviates from his track to snatch a grace, he seeks no ambitious ornaments and tries no hazardous innovations." I must not neglect to state, that of all Addison's productions, *Cato* is undoubtedly the noblest and best; and the chief aim of Addison was to avoid harshness and severity of diction, which in the previous cases of poets had not been regarded, and in this respect Addison gains fame over his predecessors. It may be stated that Addison's *Spectator* was in a manner the original production that led to the present English novels. Whoever, then, wishes to attain