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MR. GOLDWIN SMITH'S LECTURES AND ESSAYS.

A HOLIDAY PAPER.

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Any book by Mr. Goldwin Smith is full of interest. His mind is not easy to classify, indeed, but for that very reason, among others, his views become an instructive and entertaining subject of study. Most minds reflect the average tone of contemporary thought and feeling only too exactly. They are plastic in excess to the spirit of the age, with scarcely a throb of individual character or a flash of original insight. So valuable is any divergence from the beaten track that even eccentricity, if it be not too self-conscious, is a relief and a stimulant and anything like freshness and novelty of vein is a positive boon.

The main position of Mr. Mill's essay on Liberty is, I think, incapable of a successful answer. Both truth and goodness, as he maintained, are brought out by the free contact of all forms of honest thought and genuine feeling. The man, therefore, is best serving his fellows who resolutely refuses to smother his convictions or in any way to play tricks with himself. He can give us nothing better than he has, and he has nothing better than his real character and his deliberate thinking. We are not all great men, but we may all be true men, true at least to ourselves.