

the *Owl's* intelligent readers ; we quote the appreciation of his talents, given by a few of the ablest speakers of modern times. The fastidious Lord Macaulay pronounces him, "the greatest master of eloquence, superior to every orator, ancient or modern." England's great commoner, John Morley, states, "Burke is among the greatest of those who have wrought marvels in the prose of our English tongue." "Shakspeare and Burke are" says Sir John Mackintosh "if I may venture the expression, above talent. Burke's works contain an ampler store of political and moral wisdom than can be found in any other writer whatever."

Hon. Mr. Morley might have added that Burke's command of the English language resembled the mighty, irresistible river that throws out feeders in every direction and contains in itself their combined forces. The great English classical writers—Shakspeare and Milton—were as familiar to him as are the *a b c's* to the ordinary student. Many beautiful allusions to the Holy Scriptures are to be found in his speeches ; we cannot forbear quoting the following, referring to the Jewish custom of turning towards the Temple during prayer. "As long as you have the wisdom to keep the sovereign authority of this country as the sanctuary of liberty, the sacred temple consecrated to our common faith, wherever the chosen race and sons of England worship Freedom, they will turn their faces towards you," There is a tendency in our Provincial system of education, which is about as stable as the ever-changing weather-cock, to place a heavy discount upon the practical utility of Latin and Greek ; it is worthy of note, that Burke's most beautiful images, most pleasing flights of fancy, most striking illustrations are drawn from Cicero, Horace and Virgil. This is a broad statement ; we do not fear its contradiction, by anyone, that has spent ten minutes reading Burke.

Even a general criticism of Burke's

various speeches would entail an absolute monopoly of the *Owl's* pages for some time to come. We shall simply endeavor to give a slight idea of Burke's passionate advocacy of justice, mercy and truth. His two speeches on America afford a good example of his stupendous labors, impartiality of judgment and fearless denunciation of arbitrary power. Webster spent twenty years in polishing one single gem of a sentence ; Burke passed a score in serious, untiring study of American affairs. The American citizen, who has not studied, weighed and pondered over Burke's scathing, withering arraignment of the blundering helmsmen that guided the English ship of state in its "sea of troubles," has neglected a very important chapter of his country's history. A competent critic has declared that "no speech had ever been delivered in the Parliament of Great Britain, so full at once of deep research, cogent reasoning, cutting sarcasm, graphic description, profound wisdom and fervid declamation." The chief actors on the English political stage pass in review before our eyes, receiving their due meed of praise or blame. John Morely maintains: "It is no exaggeration to say that they (these two speeches) compose the most perfect manual in our literature or in any literature, for one who approaches the study of public affairs, whether for knowledge or practice." The members hissed him at his opening paragraph "for nine long years, session after session, we have been lashed round and round this miserable circle of occasional arguments and temporary expedients. Invention is exhausted ; reason fatigued, experience has given judgment, but obstinacy is not yet conquered." Applause as deep as thunder greeted him many times, ere he closed his second speech with the memorable words "I now lay the first stone in the temple of peace."

License, parading in the specious garb of liberty, overturning the throne and the altar in France, received just