

And if some things I do not ask,
 In my cup of blessing be,
 I would have my spirit filled the more
 With grateful love to Thee ;
 And careful, less to serve Thee much,
 Than to please Thee perfectly.

There are briars besetting every path,
 That call for patient care ;
 There is a cross in every lot,
 And an earnest need for prayer ;
 But a lowly heart that leans on Thee,
 Is happy anywhere.

In a service which Thy will appoints,
 There are no bonds for me ;
 For my inmost heart is taught the truth,
 That makes Thy children free ;
 And a life of self-renouncing love
 Is a life of liberty.

Literary Notices.

A Class-Book History of England.
 By David Morris, B.A., London,
 Eng.

ONCE histories were so few that myths were unchecked; now histories are so plentiful that legends are vanishing. The press will be the safeguard against errors. We must judge of the value of a history by its purpose. "It has been compiled for pupils preparing for the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations, the London University Matriculation, and for the higher classes of Elementary Schools." (*Preface.*) The purpose therefore will prepare us for what to expect. Some who have sailed nicely through examinations by memorizing the index of histories, will expect a large-sized index! They will be disappointed. Mr. Morris has not slavishly compiled a list of events; he has not pandered to the laziness of those students whose highest talent is memory.

On the other hand there is a wide chasm between this history and others. The explanation is the difference of the object in view. There is not here the antithetical brilliancy

of Macaulay, nor the polished stateliness of Gibbon, nor the undercurrent of sympathy of Greene, nor the tragic bolt-like composition of Carlyle, nor the rapid versatility of McCarthy. Why? Because the author knew that what grinding, hurrying students wanted was the greatest amount in the smallest space.

We think that a knowledge of public life is a necessary qualification for the art of history-writing. Gibbon traces no small measure of his success to the fact that he was in a campaign. Macaulay sat in the Parliament, and his history sold like a fascinating novel. McCarthy knows what occurs behind the scenes in political life. Greene shattered his strength in striving to reform the dense and criminal haunts of suburban London before he began his unfinished "History of the English People." There are exceptions: Scott is one and Carlyle is another; but, so far as a history is concerned, a cultured man of the world who has an insight into human nature is the likeliest to produce a history that will charm while it informs.