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A FRAGMENT.

When I have thought on temporal things, I've
found

That earth is much a hypocrite. Unsound
The fairest oft; untrue the brightest; and
A monster crew of facts the fairy land
Of hope invades, e'en when the soul hath come
There hungry, and athirst. Small is the sum
Of earthly good or rest. The seeming rock
Of promise proves a quicksand, which doth mock
Desire and laugh complaint to scorn. What though
Some sweet is found? It passes soon. But slow
The dragging steps of bitterness. The sweet
Like honey on the tongue, doth never greet
The bitter with disdain and slay its power,
But quickly dies a coward's death, nor our
Reproaches heeds; while bitterness is ne'er
O'ercome by honeyed drops, though rich and rare.
The better dies, slain by the worse; the worse
Upon the better pours a bitter curse.

Leave then th' external. Look within, and find
In treasures of the heart, the soul, the mind,
A cause for gladd'ning thought. Alas! that too
I've tried, and deep disgust my thought anew
Hath seized. My heart is wayward, proud, unclean;
My soul is stained and dwarfed; nor have I seen
In mind meet cause for gushing joy. Confess
That heart and soul and mind e'en yet possess
The capabilities of good renown. -
For cleanness, Godward aims, a ready frown
For evil, do produce a greatness rare,
And fame nor false nor fickle: ; the air,—
Still *what I might be* gladdens but in vain
Since *what I am*, like clouds surcharged with rain,
Pours out a pauseless, chilly, crushing shower,
And slays content. As by the storm's fierce power
The tender plant is beaten to the earth,
So is destroyed all joy for inward worth. O.

REMINISCENCES OF EUROPEAN STUDY AND TRAVEL.—No. 14.

BY PROF. D. M. WELTON.

THE STUDY OF GERMAN.

A sufficient acquaintance with the German
language to understand it as *spoken* is of

course an indispensable condition of listen-
ing with profit to lectures in the German
University. My difficulty lay principally in
this direction. I had for more than twenty
years given some attention to the study of
the language, knew something of its gram-
matical structure, and could make a fair at-
tempt at reading it; but I new found that
more than this was necessary to speaking it
or understanding it when spoken by others.
Words that readily gave up their meaning
beneath the eye, refused to do so when falling
on the ear. It is not a little humiliating to
be familiar with the meaning of thousands of
words as they appear on the printed page, and
yet not be able to catch the meaning of more
than one in a score or hundred in audible dis-
course. Yet this was my experience. On the
first Lord's day after my arrival in Leipzig,
I went to the University Church to hear Prof.
Luthardt preach; and though his enuncia-
tion is remarkably distinct, I understood but
few of his words and almost none of his sen-
tences. I was now thoroughly convinced
that the training of the eye is one thing and
that of the ear another, and that no efficiency
in the former can atone for deficiency in the
latter, to those who would *listen* to instruc-
tion in another language than their own.

As five or six weeks would yet elapse before
the opening of the approaching term in the
University, I resolved in this time to do
something in the way of preparing myself to
understand the lectures I hoped to hear. I
began the study of the language in earnest,
giving six or eight hours a day to the work.
Nor did I aim principally at the cultivation
of the ear, the acquisition of the power of
distinguishing words by sound, but strove
also to get a completer knowledge of gramma-