

liant poetical career about the same time that Joseph Hume commenced his political course. In splendour of endowment and the capacity of delighting and elevating mankind there could be no manner of comparison between the poet and the politician, yet at this day how few hearts beat in gratitude towards the former compared to those who do homage towards and bless the latter. What is the secret of this, for there must be one, and one well worth knowing? It is to be found in the objects respectively pursued by each.—The rich endowments of the poet were mainly concentrated on personal gratification,—the most conspicuous function of his genius was to portray or adorn a morbid misanthropy or sensualism; the Reformer sought neither gain, celebrity, nor aggrandisement, and he has lived to earn the gratitude of millions of his countrymen.

The career of Mr. Hume supplies a striking illustration of what, with ordinary talent, may be achieved by force of character; in other words, it furnishes a new proof that in order to public usefulness the moral endowments are more important than the intellectual. With the genius of a Burke or a Chatham, but with less of the moral energy that adhere to the true and right amid calumny, ridicule, desertion, and repeated discomfiture, Hume might and would have broken down; but possessing the invaluable qualities of faith in the right, and courage to adhere to it in the face of long continued abuse and opposition, he has triumphed. In his address to the electors of the Montrose Burghs, in 1818, he laid down as the principle and object of his political life—"to act in his public capacity, uninfluenced by personal or party motives, keeping in view only the public good;" and now, having stedfastly adhered to this course through evil report and good report, he lives to realise the reward of his disinterested services.

"Vanity of vanities," was the exclamation of the royal voluptuary, at the conclusion of a course which had exhausted the appliances of personal enjoyment. "What profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh under the sun?" "I here is nothing but misery in this world I think," was the spirit-groan of the licentious poet to whose career we have already adverted. The verdict pronounced on life by the man who has pursued a course of disinterested virtue—even though his efforts should have reference only to the well-being of his fellow-men in the present state of existence—is essentially different. "The history of my political life," said Mr. Hume, "is not without its moral, and the lesson which it teaches is that, in whatever situation of life he may be placed—if one keeps the right path in the pursuit of truth, honestly, and faithfully, he will at last find the respect of all, and that his conduct will meet with due acknowledgement." It is even so; and now we find that Mr. Hume—arrived at the natural term of human life—instead of having to lament that his labours have been fruitless, and his toils in vain, rejoices over the character as well as the amount of his successes. "As a legislator I always considered myself bound to declare my opinions; they might be only the opinions of one man, and very often it was so. I have often divided the House of Commons with six or seven upon questions which are now the law of the land." The all but unanimous verdict of the nation is now pronounced in favour of the wisdom and justice of those measures once so unpopular in Parliament, and it is fitting that honours should crowd around the head of the venerable senator who had the courage to take the lead in their advocacy when there were few to follow. There are men with whom we agree more fully in opinion than we do with Mr. Hume. There are men who command a larger measure of our admiration. There are men who occupy a wider space in our hearts; but to the full measure of his capacity and penetration do we honor him as an honest man, a true patriot, a useful senator. The type of legislation which he has advocated is not, as has been absurdly

alleged, good for one particular epoch or one nation merely, but for all countries and all times. Those who can recognise political Truth only when it has the voice of the majority in its favour and Right only when it has become law, had better let the character of such men as Mr. Hume alone.—*Aberdeen Free Press.*

### HORRORS OF THE CHINESE WAR.

A friend has kindly furnished us with an extract from a private letter just received from Dr. Parker, the Missionary Surgeon, of Canton, which will be read with interest. Dr. Parker went from Framingham, Mass., about twenty years ago, and has resided in China ever since. No foreigner, probably, has ever had so fully the confidence of the Chinese, or such opportunities for familiar intercourse with that peculiar people. This familiarity has been brought about by the Doctor's medical and surgical practice among them, Dr. Parker has probably performed or directed more surgical practice operations than any other man living. One of his reports gives the number of cases attended to by him at 23,000! The prevalent surgical cases are those of diseases of the eye and tumors. Mrs. Parker was the first Christian female foreigner, so far as is known, who entered Canton. This she did in the night time in disguise. The letter is dated Canton, July 18, 1854, and reads as follows:

"China is at present the theatre of civil war and revolution, and within the last fortnight all their horrors have been exhibited very near to us. On the 6th of July, Flehshon, a town ten or twelve miles west of Canton, embracing nearly a million of people, fell into the power of the insurgents, and the imperialists have endeavored in vain to recapture it. The smoke by day and fire by night, of burning villages, have been visible from my terrace. On the 13th inst. the first blood was shed on the north of this city, a few miles distant, if we except that spilt by the sword of the executioner, the number of decapitations daily averaging fifty or sixty, and for the last ten years 50,000! To-day there has been a second battle in this vicinity—sixty eight insurgents taken prisoners and one hundred slain.

"Day before yesterday the insurgents were victorious, and three hundred imperialists were killed. It is said some of the captives to-day were brought in on poles, their hands and feet being tied like pigs! others were brought in on the points of sharp bamboos; some have their ears cut off; others are ham-strung. The panic in the city, as the gates were closed during these skirmishes, and the flight of women and children, it is difficult to portray; and from hour to hour we know not what may become the condition of foreigners. But most fortunately at present there is a naval force—British and American—able to protect us against any mob. Alas! for China. It would seem the declaration, that the nations that will not serve God shall be destroyed, is about to be fulfilled. Our only consolation is—the Lord reigneth."—*Boston Traveller.*

### PROBABLE EFFECT OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

The subject of the probable effect of the present happy alliance of the two most civilized nations of the world on the language of those nations is one deserving the consideration of every lover of literature, as well as the etymologist. Among many other effects of this alliance this is not the least noteworthy. To the English student it is more particularly worthy of study, for it is a well-known fact that the English tongue is more susceptible of change and of receiving impressions than any other language. This is, and always has been, one of its characteristics.

The foundation of the English tongue is very slight, while the superstructure is composed of parts from almost every known language—Latin, Greek, French,