

literariâ in grassantem horum temporum impietatem aliquantum præmuniti."

The edition of the little Eton book now before me, from which I make this extract is dated, A.D. 1779: the words were probably written earlier, as this is an *editio nova*. The memorable declaration in Bishop Butler's "Advertisement" prefixed to the first edition of the "Analogy," in May, 1736, will possibly be recalled: "It has come, I know not how, to be taken for granted, by many persons, that Christianity is not so much a subject of inquiry, but that it is now at length discovered to be fictitious." But, "on the contrary," Butler rejoins, "this much at least will be here [*i.e.* in the "Analogy"] found, not taken for granted, but proved, that it is not, however, so clear a case, that there is nothing in it." Let us hope that the general intelligence of Christian society has advanced since 1736 and 1779. I think the indictment against it, implied in the words of Butler and the Eton writer, would not so readily suggest itself to-day anywhere in the English-speaking portion of the world.

The Eton exercise-books, also, without inculcating dogma, plainly keep an ethical purpose in view. Intended in appearance simply to beget skill in Latin composition, they abound with striking lessons of worldly wisdom; with admirable maxims of prudence, honour, virtue, public spirit and patriotism. "Exempla Moralia" is the title of the principal exercise-book. A pretty complete series of the Eton exercise manuals is in my collection, all of them of rather early date, and very characteristic in their interior and external aspects. 1. "Exempla Minora; or New English Examples to be rendered into Latin." Eton: printed by T. Pote, 1794. This book has the Eton shield on the title-page in the style of the last century; in an oval frame surrounded by palm

branches. A memorandum addressed to Mr. Pote, by T. Morell, author of the famous Greek Prosodial Thesaurus, afterwards edited by Bishop Maltby (with fine portraits of author and editor), informs the reader that he had revised the "Exempla Minora" and had taken the liberty to strike out some and insert others, and had adapted the whole to the grammar rules in such a way that "no one example may prevent or anticipate a subsequent rule." This mem. is dated in May, 1759. 2. "Shorter Examples, or Second Book of English Examples to be rendered into Latin." Eton: printed by E. Williams, "successor to Mr. Pote," 1818. The preface to this book tells us that it is "intended by short examples and familiar diction, to accommodate Youth in the more early Day of their Education and by regular gradation lead to the Third Book or larger Work of Exempla Moralia." 3. "Exempla Moralia; or Third Book of New English Examples to be rendered into Latin." Eton: printed by T. Pote, 1793. This volume shews the Eton shield in an oval frame. From the initials T. M. subjoined to a brief preface, dated 1759, we gather that Morell was the compiler of these examples and that they are "almost all founded on Classical Authorities."

To shew the moral aim of this book, I shall quote rather largely from its contents. From the lesser manuals could be culled any number of passages of like import, only briefer in form and more adapted to the use of the very young. While reading the following, we might imagine them to be fragments of Bacon, or Montaigne or Rochefoucauld:

Dear are parents, children, kinsfolks, friends; but our country alone contains the affections of all these. What good man therefore could scruple to die, if he can be serviceable to his country?

As we are happy or miserable, compared