

the United States in annual congress assembled.

His many thrilling orations still delight the diligent reader, and force us to admit, that while in science we may have aggregated a greater number of valuable facts, than did our forefathers, yet in the field of oratory the names of Pitt, Fox, Webster and Calhoun, have no equals in the legislatures of to-day. Webster's splendid speech in reply to Haine, is throughout an admirable specimen of political oratory. Dignified yet masterfully cutting, savoring of American liberty, yet not affected by the parish politics of individual states, it was what we consider an admirably arranged invective, in answer to an unjust and violent attack on his political principles.

We cannot do better than allow a quotation to indicate the forcefulness of the speech.

In part he said. "Matches and overmatches! Those terms are more applicable elsewhere than here, and for other assemblies than this. Sir, this gentleman seems to forget where he is and what we are. This is a Senate, a Senate of equals, of men of individual honor and personal character, and of absolute independence.

We know no masters, we acknowledge no dictators. This is a hall for mutual consultation and discussion, not an arena for the exhibition of champions.

I offer myself, Sir, as a match for no man; I throw the challenge of debate at no man's feet. But then Sir, since the honorable member has put the question in the manner that calls for an answer, I will give him an answer; and I tell him that holding myself to be the humblest of members here, I yet know nothing in the arm of his friend from

Missouri, either alone or when aided by the arm of *his* friend from South Carolina, that need deter even me from espousing whatever opinions I may choose to espouse, from debating whatever I may choose to debate, or from speaking whatever I may see fit to say on the floor of this House of Senate * * * *

Sir I shall not allow myself on this occasion, I hope on no occasion to be betrayed into any loss of temper, but if provoked, as I trust I never shall be, into crimination and recrimination, the honorable member may perhaps find, that in that contest, there will be blows to take as well as blows to give; that others can state comparisons as significant at least as his own; and that his impunity may possibly demand of him, whatever powers of taunt and sarcasm he may possess. I leave him to a prudent husbandry of his resources." In this slashing style he proceeds to answer Haine, and throughout the whole preserves that vigorous invective which disfigures his adversary at every thrust. The intense earnestness of the orator, the beauty of the diction, the harmony of the periods, when linked with the caustic criticism, rank this speech with the finest in the language. We now reach a name, whose rank was first among the greatest Englishmen when Wm. Pitt guided the realm, and the goddess of eloquence presided over the benches in the old historic court of St. James. A name equally great in literature and politics, whose influence was as wide as the empire, and to whom must be attributed in great measure, the inception of that policy, which can boast to-day, the greatest colonial empire in the history of the world.

Edmund Burke, the great Irish-