

Reproachful wonder and inquiry ; those
Who else had never stirred, are able now
To find the rest out for themselves, perhaps
To outstrip him who set the whole at work."

Paracelsus has recorded his own opinion on the subject of the Reformation as follows :—"Had I time to meddle with such matters I would send both the Pope and the Reformers to school."

He astonished his hearers by another departure from the accepted fashion ; he lectured, not in Latin, but in the vulgar tongue. His teachings were received with the utmost enthusiasm, and his class room was crowded daily. But his popularity soon began to wane and his students gradually deserted him. It is very difficult to get at the facts and to decide how much of his loss of popularity was due to his own indiscretions and how much to the malice of the Galenists. Up to this period he was a man of unusually abstemious habits ; but he is now charged with habitual intoxication. According to one biographer, he spent his nights carousing in low taverns. He rarely lectured that he was not drunk ; he was drunk when he visited his patients, and drunk when he wrote his books. Such accusations are more easily made than refuted. Berdoe concludes, after a careful examination of the evidence, that they are, at least in large part, due to the malice of the older doctors whose traditional methods had been brought into disrepute by the common-sense practice of this brilliant new-comer. The incident which led to his break with Basle is characteristic. A certain canon of the cathedral, tormented with the gout, offered Paracelsus 100 florins if he would relieve him. The cure was effected, but the canon in health repented of the promise made while he was in pain. Paracelsus had recourse to the law. The magistrates in their wisdom decided that the canon should pay only the value of the medicines he had taken ! Paracelsus denounced the court in a speech which one would like to have heard. His writings show that he had a fine gift in phrases ! He resigned his position and quitted Basle in disgust.

He then resumed his wandering life accompanied by a few scholars attached to him by ties which misfortune could not break. He finally, in 1538, reached Villach, his home during