

object which the writers proposed to themselves, than that of one who had "lived in the world rather as a *Spectator of Mankind than as one of the species*; who had by this means made himself a speculative statesman, soldier, merchant, and artisan, without ever meddling with any practical part in life; who was well versed in the theory of a husband and a father, and who could discern the errors in the economy, business, and diversion of others better than those who are engaged in them; as standers by discover blots which are apt to escape those who are in the game: who never espoused any party with violence, and was resolved to observe an exact neutrality between the Whigs and Tories, unless forced to declare himself by the hostilities of either side." Every one knows the success of the publication issued under such auspices, and as the production of such an ingeniously imagined character, with so apposite a "*nom de plume*." The '*Spectator*,' however, was but one of a club, which we have so felicitously sketched by the pen of Steele, of which Sir Roger de Coverly was the most conspicuous member, next to the *Spectator* himself, and who were all more or less supposed to be engaged in the same enterprise. It is curious that the germ of Sir Roger's character, as given in Steele's sketch becomes afterwards peculiarly the property of Addison, and has been expanded into the Sir Roger we now know as the creation of Addison alone. Such was the origin of those volumes which every one holds as the most precious perhaps which his library contains, to which he has recourse at a leisure moment with more certainty of being pleased and instructed than to any other, and which he would renounce far more valuable works, more valuable it may be for the more serious purposes of life, rather than part with. The '*Guardian*' was a more political publication than either of its predecessors. It gave place again to the '*Englishman*,' in which Steele, with less disguise, and with more pronounced loyalty, on the occasion of the threatened rising in favour of the Stuart family, defended the reigning dynasty against the attacks of Swift in the '*Examiner*.' Steele was the champion of loyalty and constitutional government, as well as the sincere friend of virtue and promoter of social progress and reform, although that reform was aimed at only through the minor virtues and lesser proprieties of life. The finer writer as well as thinker, Addison was still rather the "*fidus Achates*" of Steele, his coadjutor in his literary and social projects, than himself the leader or projector. Steele's was the originating mind—Addison's was the better-working mind, and considerably the finer mind of the two, when once set on thought. It is delightful to contemplate these friends—friends from the time of their school-boy days at the Charter house, during their common studies at Oxford, and after they had quitted its classic haunts for the more serious pursuits of life—it is surely pleasing to follow these two friends in their noble and disinterested work of, not preaching, but writing, the age into better morality, and leaving a monument such as we possess of their noble thoughts and generous opinions. There has been no example like it in any succeeding time.

Sir Richard Steele's we are inclined to rank among the noblest names