

THE GENIUS OF WEBSTER AS PORTRAYED IN HIS SPEECH AGAINST HAYNE.

The character, and propensities of every master mind are portrayed in his works. His style is inimitable because it is individual. We feel his genius ; he seems to speak to us. Intellectual vigor renders us sensible of his mighty grasp, of his all comprehensiveness, of his keen, piercing understanding, The force and beauty of his figures, the pleasing ecstasy of his metaphors, his winged imagination strike us spell-bound, while deep passion makes us feel as he does ; we are borne along irresistibly by the same torrent-like gush of feeling. Sensibility and imagination thus march in the train of intelligence, and intelligence is subject to a powerful strength of will. In proportion to the degree in which these four faculties combined are found, exists the true greatness of a master-mind.

Webster's argument in reply to Hayne was intended as a defence of his political position, as a vindication of Massachusetts, as an exposition of constitutional law and as a vindication of the true policy of the country. In this speech he has united, in a greater or less degree, work of the four above-mentioned faculties. A self-sustained intellectual might is expressed on every page. The profound knowledge and clear arrangement, the mastery it exhibits of all the weapons of dialectics ; the wit, sarcasm, splendid and impassioned eloquence, which pervade and vivify, without interruption, the close and rapid march of the argument ; the earnestness, solidity of judgment, elevation of sentiment, broad and generous views of national policy, and the massive strength of expression which characterize the whole speech, are a brilliant reflection of his genius.

His powerful grasp of the subject is peculiarly distinctive. His is not a one-sided, narrow-minded, egotistical view ; he follows not rivers and mountains and lines of latitude, to find boundaries beyond which, public improvements, such as a canal or railway do not benefit him. On the contrary, he has a broad, general, all-embracing, national scope ; a scope as far reaching as