

book of the *Aeneid*. There are some plays of Shakespeare, such as *King John* and *King Henry V.*, though these are rather above the interest of boys of thirteen; there are several sonnets of Milton and his contemporaries, not forgetting Andrew Marvell on the death of Charles I., a few stray bits out of Dryden, an ode of Addison's, and another of Gray's; there are passages in Cowper and Scott, a very few noble lyrics of Thomas Campbell, several sonnets of Wordsworth, and some splendid ballads of Tennyson, foremost among them the tremendous poem of 'The Revenge,' together with some beautiful meditative pieces, such as 'Of old sat Freedom on the Heights', and 'Love thou thy Land.'

"This list contains many gems, but it is, after all, compared with the volume of English poetry, a short list, which even the inclusion of the works of less eminent singers, such as Wolfe's 'Burial of Sir John Moore,' Macaulay's 'Armada,' and a few of Dibdin's songs, would not greatly swell. Short as it is, however, we do not make half the use of it that we ought. Good poetry is the most pervading stimulus which literature can apply to the mind and character of the young: to carry it in memory is a perennial joy, to love it is to have received the best gift education can bestow. So as to poetry and patriotism. When it reads of a great event it dilates with the sense of what that event has wrought. When it sees the spot where some great deed was done it is roused to emulate the spirit of those who did it, and feels like Browning in the famous lines on the evening view of Cape Trafalgar and Gibraltar: 'Here and here did England help me, how can I help England? say!'

"The mention of Trafalgar reminds me of the opinion expressed by an eminent American man of letters that

England has begun to forget her heroes and grow cold in her recollection of past exploits. Forty years ago, he says, men were stirred by the name of Nelson; now, a reference to him meets with no response. Is this so? Are we really ceasing to be patriotic? Has the vaster size of the population made each man feel his share less? or has long continued peace destroyed the interest in warlike prowess? or have the leading minds begun to be merely cosmopolitan? or are we too fully occupied with social changes, too sorely distracted with the strife of labor and capital, to reverence the old ideals? So much at any rate may be said, that in England the knowledge of and interest in the national history is less than in most of the free countries. It is less than in the United States. The Republic has, to be sure, no large store of patriotic poetry, even a smaller store (of indisputable merit) than England has produced since 1776, some few poems of Whittier—the ballad of 'Barbara Frietchie,' perhaps the best—Bryant and Longfellow, with stray pieces from less familiar names. Walt Whitman has taken no hold of the people, and Lowell's Muse, dignified and morally impressive as she is, seldom soars into the region of pure poetry. But the interest of the American people in the events of the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, and even in eminent statesmen, such as Jefferson, Clay, and Webster, is far more generally diffused than any similar feeling in England, where both intelligent patriotism and historical curiosity are almost confined to the small well-educated class. Among the Non-conformists there still lingers a warm though (as it would seem) steadily cooling feeling for the Puritan heroes and divines of the Commonwealth. But with this exception the middle class, scarcely less than the agricultural