

excels the ancient. Larger time and wider space are embraced in the modern drama: the destinies of the play sweep through longer periods, and are not narrowed to so limited confines, and we have in consequence something more in accordance with actual events; as in the admission, also, of the light and humorous, mingling with the darker events of tragedy, like the grave and the gay, the tragic and the more comic incidents, ever touching upon each other in real life.

It is a somewhat interesting question why the drama was so much in vogue in that age, so that such numbers of really great writers adopted it in preference to every other mode of composition, but we cannot enter upon that now. It is certainly remarkable, however, that the drama should attract so many great and original minds at this time, and perhaps, the different fields in literary effort, occupied in different ages, might be an interesting topic for discussion, and might give us valuable results in estimating the intellect and literature of the period. We may perhaps have an opportunity of referring to the subject at a subsequent stage.

(Period 2nd to be continued.)

THE MODERN HERCULES.

BY EVAN MACCOLL, Kingston, Ontario.

Offspring renowned of Water and of Fire!
Thy triumphs, Steam, to sing I would aspire:
Let critics who may deem my effort tame
Confess at least the greatness of my theme.

Power unmatched! what wonders hast thou wrought!
What feats sublime beyond the reach of thought!
In thee we gladly realize at length
The fabled Titans' all-compelling strength—
A might that dwarfs what Grecian bards have told
Of deeds Herculean done in days of old.
The winged Mercury of *their* proud day
Were, matched with thee, a laggar on the way:
Scornful of distance, unfatigued by toil,
No task thy temper or thy strength can spoil,—
Whate'er thou doest doing with a will,
At such a speed as seems a miracle.
Man's mightiest ally upon land and sea,
He owns indeed a glorious gift in thee!

Not mine the skill to sketch in fitting phrase
How Science yokes thee to her car,—the maze
Of tubes metallic, wondrous as a spell,
In which like to a spirit thou dost dwell—
A worker with a zeal that naught can tire,
Determined, prompt, impetuous as fire,—