

and charmed mankind in all future time. But he died, and his great work was left unfinished, to be completed by some genius yet unborn; and which, when done, will mitigate if it does not refute the sweeping assertions which Mr. Carlyle has penned respecting the eighteenth century. That could not have been a barren century which comprised within its bounds some of the most splendid campaigns and victories of Marlborough, the French Revolution, the conquest of Canada by the British forces, the war of American Independence, the invention of the steam-engine, the discoveries of Herschel, Bessel, and others in Astronomy, which gave us Newton's "Principia;" the victories of Cornwallis, Howe, Rodney, and Nelson; the eloquence and statesmanship of Chatham, of Pitt, of Burke, and of Fox; the splendid productions of the pencil of Moreland, Gainsborough, and Sir Joshua Reynolds; which originated Methodism, and gave us a literature which, while some of it is impure and had better never have been written, is the stock to which our modern manufacturers in that line of business largely resort for their supplies.

At the head of the literary men of this century stands the venerable though ungainly form of SAMUEL JOHNSON. A man with imperfections which charity will easily overlook; with superstitions which our reason condemns; with an irritability of temper and a dogmatism of tone which often made him rude and unbearable; but for all that he was a man—a great-souled, highly-gifted man; and when the crust was off him, and his real nature became visible in all its breadth of feeling and generosity, his defects—or, perhaps, we ought to say—his peculiarities were forgotten, and the great qualities of his mind and character called forth the admiration and affection of all who came into contact with him.

But why write of Samuel Johnson at this remote period, and considering also that he had no special connection with the opinions or movements which this Magazine represents?

Our answer is that genius, learning, and moral worth are like a diamond which, the more it is seen the more it pleases and is admired; and further, Samuel Johnson was a "helper" and fellow-labourer in the cause of morality and Christian truth at a