

the conclusion, that they must have had as like effect upon the England of Cromwell and of Pym? It must be remembered that controversies in those days were no rapier-duels, but combats à l'outrance. Compared with the polemical writings of the Reformation, the only ones with which they can be compared fairly, either with regard to the grandeur of the subject matter or the absorbing interest which they evoked, we must admit that Milton's controversial writings are almost mild.

It is, perhaps, an unintentional tribute that so many of Milton's critics have paid him, when they, in effect, blame him for not being further in advance of his age than he really was.

Mr. Pattison has done the main part of his work with care and a due amount of skill, and the book may be safely recommended to any one in want of a concise life of Milton and an intelligent *resumé* of critical opinion upon his works. Yet we must altogether praise Mr. Pattison's style. The expression '*bat-tailous canticles*' was probably meant to be Miltonic, and the phrase '*literary digladiations*' is certainly Johnsonese; but we must venture to condemn both, and to wonder how they slipped past Mr. Morley's notice. 'These and *other-such-like* inaccuracies' is a vulgar colloquialism, and we know no good recent authority for the use of the word '*truanted*' as an active verb. There was certainly no need to cashier our old friend 'to play the truant.'

On page 190, too, we notice a clumsily constructed sentence, which, construed grammatically (and Rectors of Colleges ought not to object to their phrases being strictly analysed), asserts that Wordsworth preceded Milton in point of time. In most other respects the book shows signs of careful editing, and will fill a respectable place in the series.

*Memoirs of Madame de Rémusat, 1802-1808.* Part I. No. 97 Franklin Square Library. New York: Harper Bros. Toronto: James Campbell & Son.

THE life of the first Napoleon has yet to be written. Even as the facts of that life, as they occurred from day to day, staggered and bedazzled the observer, so as to make it almost impossible for

him to form a true estimate of the General, Consul, Emperor and Exile, so even now that life as a whole appears almost too great and many-sided to be grasped by any one historian. It is true that we have passed the stage when a history, such as that compiled by Sir Walter Scott, can be accepted in despite of its inaccuracies in the relation of simple facts. It is no less true that the vehement spirit of partisanship, which colour with such opposing tints the pages of Alison on the one hand and Thiers on the other, has died away. Probably, had it not been for the inopportune appearance of that bastard Second Empire which traded for its own mean ends upon the glorious traditions of its great prototype, we should have seen by this time a fair and generally acceptable biography of the man who inherited the unsettled estate and with it the all-powerful aspirations of the French Revolution. Unfortunately the political exigencies of Napoleon III.'s reign awoke old prejudices and slumbering animosities. The events of the first Empire served as stalking-horses behind which to eulogize or to ridicule its *simulacrum*, and the stream of Time which was slowly clarifying itself so as to become a medium capable of disclosing the past instead of merely mirroring the present, was once more stirred up and muddled by the drag-nets of historical caricaturists in the interests of opposing parties.

Many interesting memoirs remain to us. The secluded years at St. Helena, so disgraceful to the Holy Alliance which demanded, and to the aristocratic England which conceded, them, afforded an opportunity for the collection and preservation of much matter of historical and personal reminiscence on the part of the Emperor himself. Several of his most attached generals have written and contributed the material for works, throwing much light upon his military genius; and the despatches and state papers of France supplement these in the fullest manner by adding the contemporaneous testimony of men whose lips were afterwards sealed to a great extent by their acceptance of office and promotion from the Bourbons.

Nor is it to French sources alone that we turn for information upon this fascinating topic. Although the ordinary English mind of the period was not able to