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It is rather too soon after Mr. Bancroft's death to attempt to give him his proper place in American literature, but so far as the higher attributes of manly character go, there is only one thing to be said, Mr. Bancroft was upright, honorable, and efficient, both in public and in private life. In fact, his foundation, without an Act of Congress, of the naval academy at Annapolis, and his course as Minister at Berlin, were services in themselves sufficient for any ordinary reputation. In all these matters Mr. Bancroft showed bimself a man who was very near to being great; but it is by his history of the United States that he will be known to posterity, and, to be perfectly candid, I do not believe that the verdict will be an entirely favorable Learned, assiduous, and conscientious, Mr. Bancroft was not by any means the best of historians. His early New England training, at a period when the intellectual people of that section constituted a sort of Brahmin class of "superior" persons, not only injured his ense of historic proportion by his constant association with one kind of people, but he likewise was probably unconsciously unjust to all other sections and classes of the community. One of the later Puritans, and saturated with Puritan tradition, he could see but little good in the flashing Virginia cavalier, the thrifty Pennsylvania trader, or the liberal, tolerant, commercial man from New York.

In point of fact, Mr. Bancroft has shown himself prejudiced quite as often as has Macaulay, and he did not in any marked degree possess Macaulay's descriptive powers. Macaulay's Claverhouse, James, Charles, and William, may not be the real persons of those names, but, at any rate, they are persons living, breathing, and acting. Bancroft's characters, on the other hand, are merely lay figures pulled by strings, and it is to the mechanism of the motor that Mr. Bancroft has mostly devoted his attention. Nevertheless, Mr. Bancroft was a most valuable criticizer, and his history is a veritable mine of material from which, I dare say, many books will be quarried.

The enterprising business manager of a certain uptown factory, which is the parent house of a well-known Broadway establishment, is I hear, given to an original custom for the purpose of personal agrandizement and entertainment, which would be decidedly refreshing as a specimen of exhibit of cold nerve, but that a continual repetition is fatiguing in the extreme to his victims. His plan, in brief, is to invite all the higher-salaried employees of the

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91 BARRINGTON STREET. HALIFAX, N. S. establishment to a dinner in his honor, the invitation being accompanied by a proportionate assessment which, as a whole, will cover the cost of a spread and the wines, and incidentally relieves the promoter of the affair from any individual expense. Every gentleman who is honored with an invitation is expected to promptly and cheerfully accept it, with its accompaniment of pecuniary obligations, on pain of disgrace in the eyes of the monarchial manager, and a consequent reduction of salary. The scheme is perfect in its simplicity, and works like a charm.

The Manhattan Athletic Club, is booming with what I have heard described as cyclonic velocity. Indeed, I feel impelled to call to a halt some of the numerous directors of the Manhattan. Clubs reminds me not a little of the novice on roller-skates: at first in fear and trembling, and with the aid of compassionate friends he ventures on the treacherous rollers; slowly, painfully and carefully, he struggles along, until after considerable practice he is able to take a turn about the rink without a fall; pretty soon he begins to feel new vigor in his muscles; he strikes out and is gratified to note that he is able to keep on his feet; shortly he is whirling around the rink with considerable speed; casting a fugitive glance over his shoulder, he discovers that he is attracting some attention, and in an effort to exceed himself, he launches into some elaborate figures and loses control of his legs. Consternation, then, seizes him, he loses his head and down he comes.

For the Manhattan Athletic Club I have the greatest respect. Starting in insignificance, it has grown to be one of the greatest athletic clubs in the world; and it owes its success to the very able management of three or four of its members. We all, however, recall instances of men who have struggled against formidable odds along the byways and highways of commercial competition to final success. We have seen these same men, stalwart and sturdy in adversity, weak and uncertain in their prosperity. It is with the utmost kindliness that I draw this illustration for the benefit of the Manhattan Athletic Club officials.

Mdme. Sara Bernhardt has boldly declared that she means to be a millionaires when she again turns her back on America, emulating, in this mercenary resolve, the host of her distinguished predecessors who have come, have seen and have conquered. This foreign talent comes high, but we must have it, it seems, and we are willing to go on creating millionaires, so long as we continue to be amused. Bernhardt comes with the strongest emotional repertoire of her career up to date, and with commendable sagacity will allow "La Tosca" to precede, in point of representation, her latest and most interesting success, "Cleopatra," thus reserving the best of the wine for the last of the feast. Her appearance at the handsome little Garden theatre will at once bring that house into the fashionable prominence which it deserves. "The Sauxteren."

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