

this law of criticism, by urging our readers to study Bishop Spalding's works. By way of describing this eminent author, we have gathered a few of his own statements, which, it seems to us, can aptly be applied to himself :

"Original authors are rarely found interesting at first ; they rather repel and give pain because they call forth in the reader the consciousness of his inferiority." "In men of genius we rarely meet with anything original ; but we find in them truths, with which we are more or less acquainted, grasped with fresh power and set forth with new meaning and beauty." "Those books never lose their charm which reflect the very life and mind of their authors : for a living soul is perennially interesting." "Profound writers have few readers."

With regard to our reading of his works, the Bishop in the same indirect manner gives us advice :

"The reading of many books gives pleasure, but the careful study of a few profits most." "Books are not everything, but for those who wish to lead the higher life, they are indispensable." He who loves none of the great books reads to little purpose." It is easy to find fault : appreciation requires intelligence and character." Books make readers, as opportunities provoke endowments. They are opportunities for spiritual growth."

A similar self-criticism of his style runs : "Detached thoughts, where there is both form and substance, are rare, and are for many a more helpful tonic than the even sweep of balanced and harmonious periods." That is, he writes in the suggestive, aphoristic style of Bacon's Essays.

The subject of his books is education. The want of a good system of education is, he considers, the only thing which has prevented and still prevents America from becoming a really great nation. But this is far from making him pessimistic. His motto is : "Never dissatisfied ; forever unsatisfied," and Shakespeare himself has penned no better saying. With Bishop Spalding, and it is but the Catholic ideal, education is a training for the higher, inner life of the soul : hence it includes culture, conduct and religion. It is the natural calamity that