

That I at all should make a little book
In such a mode; nay, I had undertook
 To make another, which, when almost done,
 Before I was aware, I this began."

This account is not only to be relied on because of the known integrity of the author, but accords with the experience of every writer in whom imagination is predominant. It is not in the nature of genius to sketch an *outline* of intended creations, and then to work by that plan. She must, of course, have some idea, however indefinite, of the object she proposes to herself; but instead of setting about to make up a given prescription, by weight and measure, genius produces unity and effect just in consequence of one happy thought suggesting another, and of the harmony which subsists among natural truths. But this train of remark need not be pursued here. The opinion it embraces might be established and illustrated by other examples; but that of Bunyan will suffice. The unity and effect of the narrative are strictly epic; and yet the author was unconscious of any such design at the outset:

"And thus it was: I writing of the way
 And race of saints in this our gospel day,
 Fell suddenly into an Allegory
 About their journey, and the way to glory.
 In more than twenty things, that I set down;
 This done, I twenty more had in my crown;
 And they again began to multiply,
 Like sparks that from the coals of fire do fly."

What can be more natural than this frank and familiar account—and we may add, more philosophical, notwithstanding the homeliness of its garb? It explains not only the Pilgrim's origin and growth, but the true secret of its perfection as a whole, and enables us to assign to Bunyan his true place among the sons of consecrated genius.

His HOLY WAR is a production of a very different character, not indicative, however, of less talent, but in some respects of superior. There is greater variety in the action, and more complexity in the machinery; but it is not so popular as the former *Allegory*, and perhaps never will be.

It does not commend itself at once, and so palpably, to the common apprehension; but he who shall give to it patience and attention enough to understand and apply it, will find the Holy War in the town of Mansoul an acute and profound analysis of the emotions of the human mind in conversion, and the subsequent conflicts of the Christian life.

THE CLAIMS OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRY UPON YOUNG MEN.

[We fully agree with our Quebec correspondent in his estimate of the vast importance of the sentiments contained in the following extracts, which we insert at his suggestion. They are from a valuable paper on the subject announced in the above title, by the Rev. J. J. Owen of New York, in the *Journal of the American Education Society*, for November last. Their perusal, we trust, will excite in the minds of Christian parents, Churches, and young men of talent, those considerations which the subject deserves, and which may lead them to enquire what is the will of God, and what are the claims of duty, in each particular case, and to act accordingly.]

"Every pious and intelligent reader of God's word, cannot but believe, that a glorious day is yet to be enjoyed by the church on earth, and that 'the heathen shall be given to the Son for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.' Nor is it less evident to those who take an enlarged view of the moral, intellectual, and political changes, which are taking place in the world, that a great revolution of opinion and conduct is at hand, the nature and extent of which are disclosed in the inspired volume. The kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.

But this revolution will not take place without an appropriate instru-