

proved, secular instruction would put on new beauty and obtain a greatly increased influence for good; it would be "clothed with strength from on high," and the light of heaven would play around its pathway. It would then become doubly attractive to childhood; for the aroma of religion, diffused through all its departments, would lend it a charm and give it a zest which no earthly condiment could impart.

This idea, we believe, has been carried out, to a great extent at least, in the new Series of Metropolitan Readers just issued by the Messrs. Sadlier of New York, particularly in the Fourth Reader, to which our attention has been more specially called. The matter of the lessons is varied, and though far from being exclusively religious, possesses, in general, a religious or moral tendency, and always leaves a good impression. There is no lesson without its moral. The selection was made by a religious lady of the Order of the Holy Cross, who took care to submit her work to the judgment of gentlemen well known for their critical acumen and literary taste, and had it edited by another lady of New York, who has merited well of American Catholic literature. Under such circumstances it does not surprise us to find that the collection possesses great merit, and that it is likely to become eminently popular in our schools, and thereby to accomplish much good.

The Fourth Reader is divided into two parts: the first containing the principles and practice of elocution, and the second, well-selected and appropriate readings, both in poetry and in prose. Two things in particular strike us as distinctive of this collection of readings for children: first, the preference given to American subjects and to American authors over those which are foreign; and, second, the copious selections from the writings of the principal Catholic writers of the day, both in Europe and in America. There is scarcely a prominent writer of this class from whose pen we have not at least one specimen. What renders this feature of the book the more valuable, is the circumstance that the writings of some of these distinguished authors are not very generally known or easily accessible to the mass of readers in this country. It is well that our children should learn that there are good and