

taken place, built up that splendid structure which we call the "British Constitution." It was our fathers who fought at Cressy and Agincourt, aye, and, as Cavalier or Roundhead, at Naseby too. They were our sires who carried the terror of British arms by land and by sea to the ends of the earth. It is our pride that we are the sons of them who fought against the Armada, or laid down their lives at Smithfield stake because of their attachment to British Protestantism and their allegiance to their living head. They are our fathers whose emblems are the rose, the shamrock, and the thistle.

It has been said, as if it were a disparagement of us, that we are mongrel. Certainly we are not more so than any other powerful cis-Atlantic State. Born and bred here or beyond the seas, let us forget all prejudices, drop all vices, extinguish sectional jealousies, and cherish a liberal, national spirit. So shall we incorporate into our native maple all the juices and virile energies of all the forest trees. So, by God's blessing, we shall become one of the most virtuous, wise, true and good of all the nations of the earth.

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## THE RELIGIOUS DRAMA OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

BY W. H. WITHROW, M.A.

THE Mysteries and Miracle Plays of the middle ages present a rich mine of poetical material for the modern explorer. His labour will be rewarded by not a few nuggets of virgin gold, although he may have to sift a large quantity of worthless ore to find them. The gems of thought he may discover are in the rough, it is true, unpolished and unwrought, yet they are often precious gems notwithstanding.

These plays are interesting, as giving vivid illustrations of the manners of our forefathers, and of the condition of mediæval society. They exhibit the conceptions of religious truth then entertained, and the mode of its communication to the people. They contain also the germ of that noble dramatic literature