

model in the qualities of strength and precision. For grace and simplicity, the poets Gray, Cowper, and Goldsmith hold the first place in our literature. Sainte-Beuve, the greatest of French critics, is a conspicuous example of the value of such a discipline. In his youth he mistook the true bent of his genius, and cultivated poetry. He afterward discovered his mistake; but he was fully aware that he could not have chosen a better mode for preparing himself for the work he afterwards did.

The moral of all this is that Dogberry's remark, true enough so far as it goes, must undoubtedly be supplemented by the maxim of Pope. The stanza of the poets the paragraph of the prose-writer, where every word seems to find its place as by some inevitable law of nature, is in reality the consummate result of an apprenticeship the most stringent and exacting in the world. 'At length' exclaims Goethe - 'at length, after forty years, I have learned to write German.' It surprises us to learn how hard even the most original and spontaneous of poets have toiled at their art. Burns is supposed to have owed less to premeditation than almost any other poet. Yet we know that he was acquainted with all the great English poets, and that he read them in such a way that no academic training could have more successfully set all his faculties at work. Heine has the reputation of being the most spontaneous of lyrical poets; yet it was reported but the other day that one of his songs which had struck everyone as being as unforced as a bird's warble, was written and rewritten some half-dozen times, the poet's blurred manuscript revealing the mental struggle that had gone to its production. It may be an inadequate definition of genius to say that it is an 'infinite capacity of taking pains.' The words at all events express the inevitable conditions under which it can alone manifest itself - Chamber's Journal.

King Saul has been characterized as "a bad man who had occasional fits of piety," and King David as "a good man who occasionally committed acts of wickedness." The history of both fully justifies this characterization. The same may be truthfully said of a great many other men. - *Independent*.

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