

pen, others not so remarkable for the artistic touch of an inspired poet as for the consuming fervor of the invincible champion. When the history of the abolition of slavery shall be correctly told, Whittier will stand in the same rank with Garretson, Wendell Phillips, Mrs. Stowe, and others of the same stamp who dared to "beard the lion in his den."

Another source of his poetic inspiration was the intolerance with which those of his own religion had been treated by the New England Puritans. He came from a family of consistent Quakers. The people who fled from religious persecution in England learned soon to pursue with great violence those who differed from themselves; and the sufferings of the Quakers at their hands furnishes one of the most humiliating pages in all the history of religious intolerance. The stories of the sufferings of his people, told to Whittier when a boy, made an indelible impression upon his mind. With the ripening of his thought in manhood grew up in him an inevitable abhorrence of religious narrowness, only less than his dislike of slavery. These feelings found expression in some, not only of the best poems that came from his pen, but some of the best that can be found in our language on subjects relating to religious liberty. It was impossible for him to be a narrow sectary, and so we find that the tide of feeling that rises high enough to overwhelm Puritan persecutions, has also burst over all narrow restraints of theological dogma. Sometimes he treads on the verge of extreme liberalism, but if the reader will not judge from any one poem, but from all, he will find a heart in love with everything taught in the Holy Word, and

disposed to tear away only fetters imposed by men. Such poems as "The Eternal Goodness," "Questions of Life," and the "Answer," furnish striking illustrations of this feeling.

The student will not find any of Whittier's poems in any curriculum of Arts as models from which to study the true form of poetry. He has declared that he is not in the habit of re-writing and polishing, but that, with the warmth he enjoys when his inspiration is on him, he throws off a poem just as he can at the time, and so gives it to the world. As compared with Bryant, Longfellow, and some others, many of his poems seem deficient in artistic finish; but in a grandeur of simplicity, in a depth of genuine, pure feeling, in the intense love of nature, and the correct interpretation of it, no one who has written in the English language surpasses him. No just estimate of the fruits of the American lyre can be made without a thorough study of his poetry--indeed, we should say, that some knowledge of his writings is necessary to a finished education. He is probably more largely than any other a truly representative American in his choice of subjects and in his treatment of them. His spotless life challenges unqualified admiration, and justly gives his works a claim to be recognized in the education of the heart in all that is lovely and of good report. None of his poems are of great length. Let the reader make "Snow Bound" a careful study. It is a characteristic poem, and for many reasons destined to a long life.

Strange that a heart so full of warmth, and affection, and fidelity, should never have found its mate. Whittier has never married.