

created. For want of earth he decided to turn animals into men, and, stretching out his hand, he first grasped an ant. Out of this creature, plodding, systematic, persevering, frugal and intelligent, he made a man. This was the first Englishman. Then, feeling the need of yet one more nation, whose origin should not be from inert clods, like other nations, but from a living animal, he caught a butterfly and made a man out of it. This was the first Frenchman. Père Mothon pays a most eloquent tribute to the qualities of the English ant; and he acknowledges the correctness of the old negro's portraiture of the French butterfly—brilliant, light, restless, airy in theories and aims, and often incapable of long-continued effort. The genius of the language must perpetuate the characteristics of the people; yet the world cannot afford to lose its butterflies; and who can blame the butterfly for wishing to perpetuate his beautiful existence? French literature, too, is not a thing to be ashamed of. For the philologist, it furnishes fields of interest in its connected yet separate *Langue d'Oc*, and *Langue d'Oui*, as well as in romances, and fabliaux, *vaux-de-vire* and *sirventes*. In history it has treasures from Villehardouin to Guizot. It has theologians and preachers from Calvin to Lacordaire. In tragedy and comedy the names of Racine and Molière must live while nerves can thrill, or mirth provoke a laugh. Its philosophers can make the most abstruse subjects clear. If Montaigne is sceptical, and La Rochefoucauld is cynical, who combines amusement and instruction with his sarcasm like La Bruyère or Boileau, and who has rescued the Roman Church from the charge of necessary antagonism to evangelical piety like Fénelon? Are there many who combine historic fact with philosophic generalization like Montesquieu? If Voltaire has passed near the verge of Atheism, who has such keen and delicate raillery as he? Time fails for mentioning the works of Chateaubriand, and Béranger, and Lamartine, and Balzac, of Taine, and Gautier, and Victor Hugo.

It is well said by Mr. Goldwin Smith that "It is certain that six months' study of French will now open to the student