

'Go over any of the great encyclopædias and you will find that Harvard University is responsible for more of our literary men than any other of our colleges or universities. Next comes Yale. Then, in the third class, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, Columbia and Princeton rank on nearly equal terms. As regards quality of intellect, Bowdoin, it must be remembered, can point to Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Dartmouth to Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate. It is plain enough, however, to the reader of any of our encyclopædias that a college education is by no means necessary to success in literature. The fact, of course, was demonstrated long ago by the unlettered Shakespeare, when he beat such university men as Greene, Peele, Nash, Lodge and even Marlowe and Ben Jonson. But our encyclopædias reveal, for instance, that John C. Whittier received only a slender schooling as a boy, and was chiefly occupied with farming until his twentieth year. Subsequently he studied for two terms at the Haverhill Academy. Mainly, therefore, he was self-taught. Henry Clay, (unlike Webster) was educated at a country school, and that he left at the age of fourteen. Bret Harte 'received only a common school education,' which stopped at the age of seventeen, after which he taught school for a little while in the rural parts of California. Then he worked successively as a miner, an express manager and a printer's apprentice, until he found an opening in journalism. William Dean Howells was to a like extent self-taught; he seems to have learned to set type in a newspaper office before he was twelve years old. This is a memorable example, because Howell's style is much more finished and scholar-like than F. Marion Crawford's, who was singularly well educated in the conventional meaning of the words. It is also noteworthy that Henry James, Jr., is not a university man—a fact calculated, to puzzle those who imagine academical training of an advanced order requisite for precision, grace, and eloquence of style. Richard Watson Gilder is another man who owes nothing to universities, having received his education at Bellevue Seminary, in Bordentown, which he left at the age of nineteen. The same thing

is true of H. G. Bunner, who was educated at a French school in New York City, afterward entering a Portuguese business firm. In the same category of men, whose knowledge and whose style have been mainly the outcome of self-tuition, belongs Washington Irving, who received his general, as distinguished from his professional, education at sundry small schools which he left at the age of sixteen. Fitz-Greene Halleck had a common school education, becoming at the age of fifteen a clerk in the shop of a relative. The same thing is true of Richard Henry Stoddard, in whose case, however, a common school education was supplemented with private study during several years' work in an iron foundry. Joseph Rodman Drake was not a university man. Neither was James T. Fields. Samuel L. Clemens ('Mark Twain') is a remarkable example of the needlessness of a college education for success in literature. What instruction he has was obtained at a district school in Missouri, and was finished when he was thirteen years old, for at that age he was apprenticed to a printer. Three years later he became a pilot on the Missouri River, and followed that vocation for a considerable period. We have enumerated only a few out of a multitude of instances, which might be culled from these brief biographies, to show that a university training is no more indispensable to eminence in literature than it is to eminence on the bench or at the bar. Neither Patrick Henry, perhaps the greatest of American advocates, nor Chief Justice Marshall, indisputably the greatest of American jurists, had a college education."

49—The Catholic News recently made mention of the one book in the world, except the Bible, of which it would be impossible to say too much in praise—*The Imitation of Christ*. Says the News:

"Few Catholics can be found who have not heard or read of *The Imitation of Christ*. It has been the companion and solace of many, not only in the Church, but outside. We have heard of generals carrying this little volume into battle, and when opportunity came of gaining a brief rest, stealing away to some retired spot to read a chapter. There is so much wisdom stored up within the covers of this