

Church of England is exalted at their expense. What would Swift have said of the High Church of England party of the present day? What would he have said of the present Ecumenical Council, and of the asserted claims of Peter still to be "primus" among the Apostles, and to be regarded as the infallible representative of Christ upon Earth? Swift's style is a model of terse, pure, idiomatic English. In prose he is one of the very greatest names in English Literature. He will always be read by the lovers of vigorous writing and pungent satire, while politicians may sharpen their style on the whetstone of his. His name is a synonyme for wit, sarcastic humour, unmeasured power of abuse, but withal vigorous sense, and highly-charged toryism. His 'Drapier's Letters' is the most popular of his works, or the work which made him most personally popular among his countrymen. That he was a man of pleasant humour, and not so unamiable as his writings might infer, may be judged from the anecdotes of his famous charity sermon, and his addressing his "Dearly-beloved Roger," the sole audience on one occasion present to join in the usual church service. His relations with Stella and Vanessa, while they show that he was not destitute of a certain power of attraction and influence over the affections even of amiable women, are the most damaging circumstance at the same time that could be adduced in evidence of the utter heartlessness which characterized his actions. It is thus that a writer on English Literature sums up the merits of Swift:—

"In originality and strength he has no superior, and in wit and irony—the latter of which

—He was born to introduce,
Refined it first, and showed its use—

he shines equally pre-eminent. He was deficient in purity of taste and loftiness of imagination. The frequency with which he dwells on gross and disgusting images betrays a callousness of feeling that wholly debarred him from the purer region of romance. He could

Laugh and shake in Rabelais' easy chair;

though it was still, as Coleridge has remarked, 'the soul of Rabelais dwelling in a dry place.' Of the 'serious air' of Cervantes, which Pope has also bestowed on his friend, the traces are less frequent and distinct. We can scarcely conceive him to have ever read the 'Faery Queen,' or 'Midsummer Night's Dream.' The palpable and familiar objects of life were the sources of his inspiration; and in fictitious narrative, he excels, like Richardson and Defoe, by painting and grouping minute particulars, that impart to his most extravagant conceptions an air of sober truth and reality. Always full of thought and observation, his clear and perspicuous style never tires in the perusal. When exhausted by the works of imaginative writers, or the ornate periods of statesmen and philosophers, the plain, earnest, and manly pages of Swift, his strong sense, keen observation, and caustic wit, are felt to be a legacy of inestimable value. He was emphatically a *master* in English Literature, and as such, with all his faults, is entitled to our reverence."