

much more time than we expected, that it was too late to leave our letters with Professor Agassiz; and as he left Boston a day or two afterwards, much to our regret we missed him altogether.

Hearing that Dion Boncicant, the author of "Young Heads and Old Hearts," and many other highly-esteemed dramas, was going to lecture on "The Position of Literary Men in England" at the Tremont Temple, we set forth after tea to hear him, curious to know what an Englishman would have to tell the Americans on the subject. We entered a handsome lecture-hall, in which a small but apparently educated audience were assembled. In a short time the young dramatist stepped forth from a side-door, and with his MS. in his hand, went to a high desk. There was in his delivery much elegance, sparkling wit, and pathos; but, to my great surprise, and no little vexation, he led his hearers to believe that literary men are held in far lower estimation in England than is really the case; that a considerable portion of them, neglected by society, are driven to indulge in beer-drinking and clay-pipe smoking, and to lead a pot-shop and tavern life. That a very few, with names known to fame of a certain sort, may at times thus luxuriate, like fowls on dunghills, I acknowledge, while some of the lower orders of newspaper scribes certainly imitate their example; but that true men of letters, the leading spirits of the age, or, indeed, the great mass of writers, are prone to indulge in such habits, I totally deny. Had he been describing the men of the past age he would have been nearer the truth; but as the principal writers of the present day are more refined in their writings than those of the past, so are they in a still higher degree in their habits. Then, again, he asserted that the chief