

his patron, and had once more to decide what to adopt to gain his livelihood. He appears now to have entertained the idea of emigrating to America, and he actually set out for Cork with that object in view, but, through some untoward accident, he was prevented from sailing, and lost his passage money in the bargain. Law was next tried and speedily abandoned. Medicine was the next profession for which he expressed a preference, and accordingly left Ireland in 1752, to prosecute his medical studies at Edinburgh, where he spent about two years. He next spent a year in Leyden. In 1755 he set out, flute in hand, with a solitary guinea in his pocket, to make the grand tour of Europe. Very little is known of his wanderings in Europe. He had made considerable progress in the formation of his peculiarly felicitous style, as evinced by a few of his letters written at this time. He returned to London in 1756, bringing back with him a medical degree and a larger acquaintance with men and things. Now followed some of the darkest years of his life. He eked out a precarious livelihood by acting at one time as a school usher, at another time by working in a chemist's shop, then by correcting proofs in Mr. Samuel Richardson's printing establishment, but chiefly by his labors as a literary hack. Griffiths, the book-seller, engaged him to do work for his magazine, at a salary which was certainly small enough for the severe and constant employment given him, but the hardest stipulation of all was that his work was to be reviewed by Mrs. Griffiths. He quarrelled with Griffiths before long, and supported himself by writing for the other periodicals of the day, and henceforth devoted himself entirely to literature.

It is unnecessary to give minute details respecting his after career in London. Although he made almost

fabulous sums by his works, he was never able to keep out of financial embarrassment. He was the most improvident of men; ready to give his money away at every tale of distress, whether true or false, or to spend it in the most reckless extravagance. His life, accordingly, was of a most up-and-down character, at one time on the verge of being imprisoned for debt, at another resplendent in "Tyrian bloom, satin grain and garter, blue silk breeches." He died in 1774, and in debt to the amount of two thousand pounds. He was fortunate in his friends. He was one of the original members of the famous Literary Club, of which Reynolds had the honor of being the first promoter; some of the other members were Dr. Johnson, Burke, Hawkins, Beauclerk, Garrick, Langton and Dr. Nugent. He was also acquainted with Hogarth. These names were the foremost then in England in the arts and literature, and Goldsmith could not fail to be much benefitted by intercourse with minds of such a superior order. Dr. Johnson, the critic and moralist; Reynolds, the first president of the Royal Academy, whose lectures on art are still highly prized; Burke, great as an orator, statesman and author; Garrick, the foremost actor of the day, each would, no doubt, exercise considerable influence in the development of Goldsmith's genius. It is especially interesting here to notice the association between the other fine arts and literature, a greater regard for beauty of form and color, a deeper interest in nature would be evoked by this association, and accordingly we find that Goldsmith is one of the precursors of the poetry of natural description.

We may now refer to those productions which have secured immortal fame to Goldsmith. Some men appear to be greater than their work, as Dr. Johnson the last king of English letters; other men like Goldsmith are not ap-