

represented in our English literature, *vide*, writings of Shakespeare.

The drama is connected with action, and many of the theatrical pieces reflect the times in which they were written, such as the writings of the above dramatist and poet, which contain many historical references, *vide*, Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar of William Shakespeare.

Influences of Drama.

Dramatic performances may be defined as a systematic representation of life, and the object of which is to give instruction and pleasure to the audience.

The function of the English drama is to give pleasure to individuals who have different tastes.

In ancient time and in the middle ages, dramatic art was closely associated with religious instruction, and it cannot be doubted but that many sublime lessons in morality were taught the people by such theatrical representation as to the miracle and mystery plays of the middle ages, which explained many scriptural stories and biographical sketches of character to the people generally.

At the present time, the drama is an entertainment for the purpose of giving pleasure. When the piece is ethically pure, moral lessons are often inculcated.

It is natural for individuals to mimic human gesture and speech. It is noticeable in pedagogy that "the early lessons in language are caught—not taught." Children acquire the accents and gestures of their intimate associates very readily.

All this shows us clearly that if the stage was properly conducted, it might become productive of much good to the community, but owing to the present bad management, the majority of our orthodox thinkers would be inclined to say that the influences of the stage have an immoral tendency.

It is said that many of the dramatic pieces presented nowadays contain little moral teaching, and, in some cases, the plays are morally impure. Again, the style of dress such as is seen on the nauseating placards and the clouds of suspicion which hang over the moral characters of the actors and actresses do not tend to produce a healthy moral tone or exercise an ethical influence on the audience. Moreover, from the standpoint of

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political economy, it is scarcely fair to class the modern stage players with those who are truly productive laborers, such as the farmer, merchant or teacher. The influence of the stage is certainly very great educationally, but its moral influence is not ethically praiseworthy.

If our nineteenth century stage would present masterpieces in literature, having a high moral tone, then it would be performing a noble educational work, but alas, too often there is little in the modern drama that has a refining influence on the audience, or any lessons in ethics that help people to live the higher life.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The Toronto Ideal Concert Company did not receive the patronage that the merit of the entertainment deserved.

O'Dowd's Neighbors, an operatic comedy which has convulsed San Francisco theatre-goers with laughter, comes to The Victoria, Wednesday, July 16. The company has been selected to present the musical selections in the most artistic manner.

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