

just reputation, which he enjoyed, by glowing pictures of fancy and by sparkling flights of the imagination; but the gentle sweetness of his nature pervades his writings, and imparts to them an indefinable grace which has never been surpassed by any other English author. His sentences flow along with quiet and peaceful earnestness, exciting sensations similar to those caused by the musical purlings of a beautiful brook, as it flows in its winding course through meadows redolent of ripening clover and valleys glowing in the noontide of beauty. Charms, such as these were not long unrecognized, and gained for Addison the approbation of contemporary writers, and the warm support of the whole English people. We do not find in his writings anything coarse or unseemly. In some of them there is an abundance of wit, but it is not the kind which characterized the manners of those times. It is something wholly original, and worthy of his purity of mind and expression; but we cannot feel surprised at this when we consider the purpose which he had in view, and which guided him in producing the most admirable examples of wit, humor, and satire: "to enliven morality with wit, and to temper wit with morality." Such a motive, conscientiously carried out, did not fail to give birth to impressions which materially affected the morals of the times, and brought about a much purer tone of manners. It was of course a matter of no little difficulty to confine himself to a strict observance of the rule which he had laid down; but nevertheless he deserves great credit for his attempt to do that, which the greatest of wits have signally failed to accomplish.

The reputation of Addison rests principally upon the essays which appeared in the *Spectator*. His poetry, though thoroughly characteristic of his nature, by no means entitles him to a rank amongst the first of English poets; but his prose is without doubt an admirable monument to his name. A few of his poems are indeed excellent; and it was through the instrumentality of one of these, *The Campaign*, that he received his first public appointments. In his verse, and also in some of his prose, there is displayed a vivid imagination. This is not, however, grand and noble, but beautiful and gentle. It imparts to his essays an indescribable sweetness, no less charming than his beauty of style; yet it does not weaken a single sentence, but rather adds strength and force. Dr. Johnson has paid in a few words a fitting tribute to his writings: "Whoever wishes to obtain an English style, familiar but not coarse, and elegant but not ostentatious, must give his days and nights to the volumes of Addison." There was in him a delicacy of sentiment, arising, no doubt, from his timidity of nature, which filled a void in English literature.

The works of Addison no longer claim the attention which their first appearance elicited.

They accomplished the aims which their writer had in view, when he made the vices, fashions, incivilities, and inconsistencies of the times the subjects of his essays. There are, however, many worthy articles on topics which will always be interesting to men of refined tastes and morals. They are those which refer to the vices and virtues which will always be found in social circles, and which distinguish the various types of human character. Though many of these are objectionable, because of his unremitting endeavors to discourage the vicious manners of those days, still we cannot but admire his virtuous style of handling every variety of subject, and his freedom from that looseness of expression which is so disgusting in literature, excellent in every other respect.

A NEW RACE OF DOGS—THE TAILLESS FAMILY.

J. J. L.

Another link has been found which will go far, we think, to prove the correctness of Charles Darwin's theory, otherwise called the theory of "natural selection." It is no less than a race of tailless dogs which has flourished under our eyes for two generations, and which has thought proper, "no doubt," as Mr. Darwin would say, "in accordance with the laws of natural selection, or evolution," to dispense with that useless appendage which we call tail. If these dogs are in a state of transition from canines to the genus *homo*, we must say that at their present rate of progress they will soon outstrip the humans. They appear to be of a more educated and high-toned class than the common dogs, with whom they scorn to associate.

✶ Their singular conduct has of late been attentively watched, and it has been noticed that there is a gradual improvement in their intellectual status. For instance, they always carry themselves in a dignified manner, and never converse (if we can as yet apply that term to their colloquial communications) in the bright light of the sun; but retire beneath some friendly tree or shed to avoid, no doubt, becoming tanned, and thus spoiling their complexion. We have also often noticed them rubbing their caudal extremity against some fence or stray obstruction, by which means they hope to remove before long the unseemly shaggoness in that part; and thus possess decent posterior collosities until, having become anthropoids, they will ultimately emerge from their state of transition, metamorphosed into full-grown hominidæ of the species *sapiens*.

In some respects, they so nearly resemble man that it is a task of no little difficulty to draw a line of demarcation between them. They are just as inquisitive as those who consider themselves their betters. A fact that was fully proved last week by one of these tailless dogs, in whom the instinct of poking one's nose into other people's affairs, and various other places where one isn't wanted, was already developed to such a high degree that he inserted the end