

The Eighteenth Century was not so fertile of genius that we can afford to erase from the list of its great men one who has so high a place as has been accorded to Samuel Johnson. Professor Tyrell's "Unbiased Appreciation" of this writer, in the *Fortnightly* for August, will no doubt be regarded by the partisans of Johnson as a piece of depreciation, not unbiased. We do not think the professor's short, disconnected article, with its emphasis on points of scholarship, will leave the fame of the old "uncourtly scholar" much bedimmed. Johnson has, it is true, ceased to be considered a sound authority as a literary critic, although in that capacity he is still very widely quoted. His fault-finding treatment of Milton, and particularly his failure to appreciate *Lycidas*, furnish unanswerable arguments against his literary judgment. It is admitted that his opinions of Milton's work were influenced by his antipathy to the great poet on political grounds. Where he is unprejudiced, he is more apt to discern values. His own poetry is lacking in fineness and imagination. But many find enjoyment in his ponderous, drawling prose, and read with interest his *Lives of the Poets*. His historical position among critics, editors and lexicographers will always give his work an academic interest. The greatness of his eccentric personality as revealed in full color by Boswell, must keep his name alive beyond academic circles, and he has many champions who will not take as final Professor Tyrell's dictum on his title to fame.

EVENTS.

On the 21st the electors of Canada will decide for or against the Reciprocity measure.

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A serious strike of British railway and steamship employees was settled on August 19th through the intervention of Mr. Lloyd George. The matters in dispute are to be referred to a royal commission.

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A successful revolution in Haiti has terminated in the exile of ex-President Simon, and the installation as President of General Laconte.