

exercised in raising the character and tone of public discussion. By his salutary criticisms and judicial comments he discredited, if not checked, the declension of morals in public life. This, even the liegemen of Party in the country have been heard to acknowledge; while they have paid tribute to the strength and force of the critic's sound political reasonings, and given the writer credit for his disinterestedness, dispassionateness, and independence of thought. In these respects the power and influence of Prof. Goldwin Smith's work in Canada have been undeniable; and all the more so since his writings have been at the same time richly suggestive in matter, inspiring in their character, and most instructive in their wealth of erudition. Added to this, and to the resources of a scholar behind his work, have been the learned writer's incomparable gift of expression, his ready faculty of taking a statesman's broad, historic view of things, with a keen and large grasp of public affairs, and a phenomenal power of instantly mastering and powerfully illuminating any subject he dealt with.

Another notable quality in the distinguished writer, which, with his dispassionateness and moderation, has contributed greatly to the influence and impressiveness of his work is the calm, though earnest, literary utterance of his thought, so admirably suited to the purposes of philosophical disquisition, political reasoning, and critical comment. In all his work as a journalist and critic, while there is ever manifest a masculine strength of intellect, there is no undue vehemence or fierce invective; while the brilliance of his literary style is apparently without effort or attempt at rhetorical display. Even in his most trenchant and righteously indignant mood, when discanting on political turpitude or censuring social immorality, there is usually in evidence a quiet restraint, and nothing ostentatiously intruded to create sensation or detract from a high moral effect.

This eminent scholar and typical

English gentleman became a resident of Toronto in 1871, having a year or two before connected himself with Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y. At Cornell he was solicited to take the chair (accepted, however, without emolument) of English and Constitutional History, somewhat akin to the post he had held at his Oxford *Alma Mater*—the Regius Professorship of Modern History—a post later on held in succession by such scholars as Stubbs, Freeman and Froude. In the Ontario capital, the Professor, some years later, married, and took up his residence in the old Colonial manor-house of "The Grange." Here he has since occupied himself in a life of literary toil, relieved by occasional visits abroad, and brightened at home by genial hospitality and a kindly intercourse with prominent citizens and friends.

It was in 1872 that he began to interest himself in our nascent literature and devote his pen to the independent and instructive treatment of political and general topics of national import. In doing this great service to the young nation, there have been some in the country who have not seen eye to eye with the distinguished *Bystander* critic in the views he has at times fearlessly propounded; but who, nevertheless, have given him credit for the manifest disinterestedness of his motives, and paid tribute to the great literary charm, as well as the vigorous thought, incisive brilliance and marvellous lucidity of his writings. When confronted myself with these occasional adverse utterances, and when called upon to reply to correspondents of my own who have at times expressed a disrelish of the Professor's "contumacy" in this respect, and especially of his ultra-democracy and anti-imperialist ideas, I have found satisfaction in pointing to a paragraph in a biographical sketch of Mr. Goldwin Smith, in Dudley Warner's "Library of the World's Best Literature," where the writer thoughtfully treats of the intellectual characteristics and cosmopolitanism of his subject in the following words: