

Turning to America's prose writers we find them following closely in the footsteps of their brother poets—treading the same beaten path of ignorant prejudice. Daniel Webster ranks among the foremost of American orators. His Bunker Hill speech is a masterpiece of eloquence. But who can read that speech and not feel a regret that the great mind of its author should be "tinctured in the least degree with the bigotry of his age. Yet such is unfortunately the case. The orator of Bunker Hill is painfully partial. Although it was an oration delivered on the occasion of inaugurating a monument commemorative of a struggle which purchased a nation's freedom, there is no mention even of the names of Lord Baltimore or William Penn, who in Maryland and Pennsylvania did so much for both civil and religious liberty. On the other hand the Pilgrim Fathers are lauded to the skies. Their bad deeds are kept in the background. They receive an undue meed of praise—these same pilgrim fathers, who, as history plainly shows, instead of being the friends of religious freedom, became by their narrow-minded way of acting, the very incarnation of religious bigotry. The orator of New England draws anything but a true picture of those who came from Spain to settle in South America. Of the motive which influenced the English and Spaniards in the colonization of North and South America he says the former did not seek after gold, while "the mines of gold and silver, were the incitements to Spanish efforts." "The colonists of English America were of the people, and a people already free," "the conquerors and European settlers of Spanish America were mainly military commanders and common soldiers." The former were "industrious individuals, making their own way in the wilderness, defending themselves against the savages, recognizing their right to the soil, and with a generally honest purpose of introducing knowledge as well as Christianity among them." "Spain swooped on South America like a falcon on its prey. Everything was gone. Territories were acquired by fire and sword. Hundreds and thousands of human beings fell by fire and sword. Even conversion to Christianity was attempted by fire and sword." We

might quote many more passages from this famous oration showing Mr. Webster's repugnance to the Spaniards, and his extreme fondness for the Puritans. But enough has been said to show that the orator was prejudiced against the former. And the reason was, Catholic and Spanish were for him synonymous terms; hence his deep aversion to everyone and everything bearing the latter appellation.

The popularity of Washington Irving as a prose writer is world-wide. But he has been guilty of some gross calumnies against the Catholic Church. In his "Newstead Abbey" we read: "One of the parchment scrolls—found in the eagle of molten brass—throws rather an awkward light upon the kind of life led by the friars of Newstead. It is an indulgence granted to them for a certain number of months in which plenary pardon is assured in advance *for all kinds of crime.*" It appears that some time after the writing of this, Dr. Clancy, the then co-adjutor Bishop of Charleston, on a visit to England, called at Newstead Abbey and made a careful examination of the parchment mentioned by Irving. "So far from being an indulgence," says the Bishop, "to friars from a Pope or Bishop, or any ecclesiastical authority, it is a pardon for civil offences which an English king thought proper to impart to real or imaginary offenders against the forest-laws in Sherwood, County of Nottingham." Though the fact was brought to the knowledge of Irving, and a promise of correction obtained, the insulting passage in "Newstead Abbey" remains to this day; a blot on the fair name of the American Goldsmith.

If there is one class more than another of American prose writers who have shown a decidedly bigoted spirit in their works, it is the historians—the very men from whom we have a right to demand freedom from not only religious prejudice but even from the least partiality towards any one sect or religion. George Bancroft is the greatest historian America has seen. By his history of the United States he refuted the charge of Europeans that America had no history. In the personal revision of this work he altered nearly every passage which he had formerly written complimentary to the Catholic founders of Maryland; and thus