

Literary Models.

By T. Darley Allen.

In this literary age, almost every person possessing a fair education seems anxious to write something for publication. English composition is, therefore, a subject that should receive much attention. Every one who desires to present his ideas in print should be able to express his thoughts clearly and concisely, and, if possible, with elegance of diction. And in order to attain excellence in the art of composition, it is necessary to study the best written books. And chief among well-written books is the Bible. Whoever reads the Book of books carefully will find that it will greatly help him to become a good writer. Bunyan, the author of the greatest allegory ever produced in our language, possessed few books, and among them was the Bible, which was his constant companion, and to the reading of which he was indebted for his excellent literary style.

Charles A. Dana, the great journalist, said concerning the Bible: "There is no book from which more valuable lessons can be learned. I am considering it now, not as a religious book, but as a manual of utility, of professional preparation and professional use for a journalist. There is, perhaps, no book whose style is more suggestive and more instructive, from which you learn more directly that sublimity, simplicity, which never exaggerates, which recounts the greatest event with solemnity, of course, but without sentimentality or affectation—none which you open with such confidence and lay down with such reverence; there is no book like the Bible."

The recent utterance of Frederic Harrison regarding the Bible as a literary model presents some excellent advice, and it shows that, in spite of his Positivism, the great author is not blind to the literary excellence of the Scriptures. He said in a letter on "Style in English Prose," delivered not many months ago before the students of Oxford University, "Read Smith, Defoe, Goldsmith, if you care to know pure English. I need hardly tell you to read another and better book. The book which begot English prose still remains its supreme type. The English Bible is the true school of English literature. . . . If you care to know the best that our literature can give in simple, noble prose-work, learn and inwardly digest the holy Scriptures in the English tongue."

It was the custom of Edmund Burke to read a chapter in Isaiah each morning before going to the House of Commons, in order to be able to speak impressively. Edward Everett was, to a large extent, indebted to the Book of Proverbs for his power as a rhetorician.

The student of English composition who neglects to study the Bible in the English tongue is making a great mistake. Far better it would be to neglect every other book than this. Among all the books in the language, it is pre-eminent for literary merit, and is undoubtedly the best model for literary workers that exists.

Alcohol and Opium.

At Ningpo I began to study the effects of opium smoking, nor was it possible to dismiss the subject as long as I remained in China. The conclusion to which I was brought is that to the Chinese the practice is an unmitigated curse. Whether it is worse than the abuse of alcohol among us I shall not undertake to decide. The contrasts between the effects of the two drugs is remarkable. Liquor makes a man noisy and furious; opium makes him quiet and rational. The drinker commits crime when he has too much; the opium smoker when he has too little. Drinking is a social vice, drunkenness a public nuisance; opium smoking is mostly a private vice indulged at home; but even in opium shops it is more offensive to the nose than to the ear or eye. Alcohol imprints on the face a fiery glow; opium an ashy paleness. Alcoholic drinks bloat and fatten; opium emaciates. A drunkard may work well if kept from his cups; an opium smoker is good for

nothing until he has had his pipe. A drunkard can in most cases cure himself by force of will; the opium habit is a disease, which to break from requires in all cases the help of medicine. It takes years for alcohol to reduce a man to slavery; opium rivets its fetters in a few weeks or months. It does not take the place of tobacco, which, used by all classes as a more or less indulgence, is indispensable to the opium smoker, nor does it take the place of alcoholic drinks, which are consumed as much as ever. Even its moderate use unfits a man for most pursuits. A thousand opium-smokers were at one time dismissed from the army as disqualified for service. In the long run the insidious drug saps the strength, stupefies the mind, and of course shortens the span of life. The expense, though great in the aggregate, is nothing in comparison with the loss of time and energy sure to follow in its wake.—W. A. P. Martin, D.D.

"His Mercy Is Over All!"

BY MARY D. BRINE.

It is wiser to count our mercies, the blessings which
strew our way,
Than to wearily ponder the troubles we stumble
upon each day.

It is wiser to welcome the sunshine that gladdens the
sky overhead
Than to fear for the sometime shadows which darken
the way we tread.

It is wiser to joy in the beauty of the roses which
open each morn
Than to pass them by unheeding for dread of the
prick of the thorn.

If we only will count our mercies, we'll find that they
far outweigh
The thorns, the shadows, the troubles, we're doomed
to meet each day.

And so, though sorrow must meet us, and tears
must oft times fall,
Yet ever will be this comfort: "His mercy is over
all!"

—C. E. World.

Adversity.

BY MRS. W. H. PAGE.

A storm raged over all the land last night,
And when I stood upon the hills to-day
I saw the distant mountains newly crowned with
snow;

Those rugged peaks are God's storehouses,
Where he keeps for us
Refreshing streams against our time of need;
And when the parching, dusty summer comes,
His heat unlocks them and they trickle down
In clear and cool fountains, blessing the thirsty
lands below.

So with adversity:
Its bitter blasts how round us and enfold us with
chilling mantles;
But by and by God's sunshine falls on our cold
hearts,

And from them flow rich streams of sympathy
To bless the toiling souls below.

—Herald and Presbyter.

When You Weep—and Why.

Tears are the common legacy of every human being, and if you should be asked whence they come and where they go, you would probably display a surprising amount of ignorance about a very simple subject.

Our eyes are always wet with tears, not only when we weep, but always. Our eyeballs are subjected to a constant flow of the lachrymal fluid, even when we are asleep, and were the stream to cease only for an hour, miserable indeed would be the lot of the human creature.

At the outer corner of every eye is what is called the lachrymal gland, which nestles under the overhanging bone of the forehead. The organ secretes the fluid which flows over the eyeball to the inner corner, and there it disappears through a little orifice, whence it is in turn conducted to the nostril. That

is why you require so many extra handkerchiefs, when you have a cold.

Now comes the question. How do the tears find their way to the nose? Examine your eye in the mirror, and you will find a small elevation upon the lower eyelid, near the nose. Place your finger upon the lower eyelid just below this small elevation, so as to turn it outward. There you will see a small hole, like a pin prick, and there you have found the little passage which conducts the tears into the nostrils.

This little orifice, for various causes, frequently becomes obstructed, in which case you are bound to weep incessantly until relief is afforded you by the removal of the obstruction.

The overflow of tears which follows some great grief is created by the lachrymal gland under pressure of mental emotion.

Why are tears salt? Literally, our tears are distilled from the very springs of our inmost vitality, for they are separated by marvellous machinery and chemistry from the arterial blood freshly circulated from the heart; and as this contains about six or seven parts in one thousand of saline constituents, so tears contain one-third per cent of chloride of sodium, besides a very small proportion of other salts, ninety-eight per cent being water. The office of this alkaline fluid is to clear, clean and moisten the cornea, which, having no blood vessels, would, of course, wither and dry up without this moisture, and we would become blind.

Density of Population in Canada.

Prince Edward Island is the smallest of all the provinces, but it is more than twice as thickly populated as any other province, the population being 54.4 persons to the square mile. Nova Scotia comes next in density of population, with 22.0 persons. The following is the order in which the provinces stand, according to density of population, as ascertained by the census of 1891:

P. E. Island	54.5
Nova Scotia	22.0
New Brunswick	11.4
Ontario	10.0
Quebec	6.5
Manitoba	2.5
British Columbia	0.8
Provincial districts	0.2
Canada	1.5

If the whole of Canada were as thickly populated as Prince Edward Island its total population would be over 215,000,000.

Unseen Doorkeepers.

Sometimes we see the angel who opens to us the door of opportunity, but more often we do not see him. Sometimes God makes very plain to us the leading of His providence, but far more often things seem to happen "of their own accord."

Yet nothing happens of its own accord. No gate opens without the gate opener. If any blessing has come into your life, you may be sure that some one put it there. If you hear any call, there is a mouth behind the voice. Not at haphazard has any opening of your life come to you; some hand has taken down the bars, some arm has pushed back the doors.

The cloud of witnesses are more than witnesses; they are preparers; they are assistants. Your dead father is still helping you, if you will let him; your dead mother is still lifting your burdens. The angels are God's ministers sent on his errands, and what errand more pressing than to aid God's children?

When next you approach some closed door, whether it be closed by sickness or poverty or former failure or what not, do not see the door, do not think of it, but think only of the unseen angel waiting beside it. And remember: it is only by following the angels you see that you can obtain the good offices of the angels you do not see.—Christian Endeavor World.