

THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

TROS TYRIUSQUE MIHI NULLO DISCRIMINE AGETUR.

VOL. 6.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., MARCH, 1880.

No. 6.

A FRAGMENT.

When I have thought on temporal things, I've found

That earth is much a hypocrite. Unsound
The fairest oft; untrue the brightest; and
A monster crew of facts the fairy land
Of hope invades, e'en when the soul hath come
There hungry and athirst. Small is the sum
Of earthly good or rest. The seeming rock
Of promise proves a quicksand, which doth mock
Desire and laugh complaint to scorn. What though
Some sweet is found? It passes soon. But slow
The dragging steps of bitterness. The sweet
Like honey on the tongue, doth never greet
The bitter with disdain and slay its power.
But quickly dies a coward's death, nor our
Reproaches heeds; while bitterness is ne'er
O'ercome by honeyed drops, though rich and rare.
The better dies, slain by the worse; the worse
Upon the better pours a bitter curse.

Leave then th' external. Look within, and find
In treasures of the heart, the soul, the mind,
A cause for gladd'ning thought. Alas! that too
I've tried, and deep disgust my thought anew
Hath seized. My heart is wayward, proud, unclean;
My soul is stained and dwarfed; nor have I seen
In mind meet cause for gushing joy. Confess
That heart and soul and mind e'en yet possess
The capabilities of good renown, -
For cleanness, Godward aims, a ready frown
For evil, do produce a greatness rare,
And fame nor false nor fickle as the air, -
Still *what I might* be gladdens but in vain
Since *what I am*, like clouds surcharged with rain,
Pours out a pauseless, chilly, crushing shower,
And slays content. As by the storm's fierce power
The tender plant is beaten to the earth,
So is destroyed all joy for inward worth. O.

REMINISCENCES OF EUROPEAN STUDY AND TRAVEL.—No. 14.

BY PROF. D. M. WELTON.

THE STUDY OF GERMAN.

A sufficient acquaintance with the German language to understand it as *spoken* is of

course an indispensable condition of listening with profit to lectures in the German University. My difficulty lay principally in this direction. I had for more than twenty years given some attention to the study of the language, knew something of its grammatical structure, and could make a fair attempt at reading it; but I now found that more than this was necessary to speaking it or understanding it when spoken by others. Words that readily gave up their meaning beneath the eye, refused to do so when falling on the ear. It is not a little humiliating to be familiar with the meaning of thousands of words as they appear on the printed page, and yet not be able to catch the meaning of more than one in a score or hundred in audible discourse. Yet this was my experience. On the first Lord's day after my arrival in Leipzig, I went to the University Church to hear Prof. Luthardt preach; and though his enunciation is remarkably distinct, I understood but few of his words and almost none of his sentences. I was now thoroughly convinced that the training of the eye is one thing and that of the ear another, and that no efficiency in the former can atone for deficiency in the latter, to those who would *listen* to instruction in another language than their own.

As five or six weeks would yet elapse before the opening of the approaching term in the University, I resolved in this time to do something in the way of preparing myself to understand the lectures I hoped to hear. I began the study of the language in earnest, giving six or eight hours a day to the work. Nor did I aim principally at the cultivation of the ear, the acquisition of the power of distinguishing words by sound, but strove also to get a completer knowledge of grammar