

best you can make of it. If it is said that it matters little since the majority know what value to attach to such representations, it may be said with greater force that it would be better to let each word pass for its face everywhere. What benefit can there be in a general depreciation of this currency?

However, if this sort of thing is to continue in trade, it should not exist in the sphere of literature. Here its effects are more pernicious as men in this domain are supposed to be actuated by a higher motive than wordly gain. If a new book is offered for sale, and a journal, professing to work for the moral and intellectual growth of its readers, reviews the work and pronounces it worthy of a place in every library, and adds that no library is complete without it, many who are desirous of obtaining an authority on this particular subject will purchase the publication. Most papers do something in reviewing works as they appear, and if editors are at all influenced by mercenary motives to utter what is unmerited, numerous purchasers of books are made the unconscious victims of avarice. Whenever there is a stepping aside from fair and candid criticisms faith is broken with a reading public. So also injustice is done when lectures, concerts, and exhibitions of any kind are so excessively eulogized as to receive increased patronage on subsequent occasions.

But unmerited praise is not all to be attributed, at least proximately, to mercenary causes. Literary journals and newspapers are becoming more and more abundant, so that all matters of importance and many insignificant things are heralded abroad and commented upon by contributors to this periodical literature. Misrepresentations are oftentimes due to looking at outward show, as well as to ignorance of the correct use of language. Both these causes are operative to a large extent. There should be closer scrutiny to discriminate between external glitter and internal value; and greater care that the signs selected answer to the things signified. It really seems sometimes as

though writers had ransacked the whole vocabulary of laudation without the least regard to fitness or truth.

If the dignity and power of the press are to be sustained, those who control it must discountenance all the mere froth and bombast of numerous aspiring correspondents, as well as maintain their own honor inviolate. Those who shut their eyes to these facts will, sooner or later, be borne on the rising tide of public opinion to where they refuse being led by requirements which are not only just but conduce to the general weal.

Our Exchanges.

Apropos. We wish our exchanges, one and all, to take notice that the name of this paper is not "The Acadia Athenæum." It's too classical altogether.

We have received one number of the *Kansas Review*. Its article on "Our Indian Policy" is well written. There seems to us to be not a little incongruity between the professions of absolute liberty made by the U. S. authorities and their treatment of both the red and the yellow man. When, however, the exchange editor calls his fellow-craftsman of the *Index* "a mixture of pepper and tobacco" it does seem to be a slight departure from the "golden rule."

The *Academy*, from Worcester, Mass., is a pleasant little paper, and is very welcome to our table.

Our old friend the *Tyro* has departed, another evidence of that sad fact that "the good die young;" but as if to fill its place Toronto sends us a weekly called *The True Blue*. So the law of compensation still acts.

The *Collegian* and *Neoterian* is very good, all but the jokes. In that department it attempts to substitute quantity for quality. Such an attempt is always a failure, and especially in the case of jokes. We are aware that the *Collegian* is not the only College paper that is deficient in this respect.

The only genuine effect of a sincere scepticism is and must be, not the complacent and frivolous humor which too often attaches to it, but a mournful confession of the melancholy condition to which, if true, the theory reduces the sceptic himself and all mankind.—HENRY ROGERS.