

THE BERKELEYAN.

"WESTWARD THE COURSE OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

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KINGSLEY'S HYPATIA.

An author may say the finest things upon any subject, yet this after all is his opinion, not yours. You see only the result of his thought, and believe, or disbelieve. But if a writer can lead you to reason with him, to canvas his arguments, and to think for yourself, he ensures a better result, a more lasting impression. The suggestive style is the best mode of giving our thought to others. I am hence emboldened to give some of the leading traits of Hypatia, together with the impression directly produced by the work. I shall lose sight of the book as a work of art, and try to call attention to its suggestive power, feeling that those who read it in the quiet thoughtful way will be, as I was, richly rewarded.

The student of character will find in Hypatia three men who will set him thinking. These are well-drawn characters, whose lives may not serve as examples, but clearly suggest the true model.

The lowest of these is the mighty Amal, he has the brute mind, as well as brute strength, and implicitly believes in both. He was the intensely "Practical Man" of his time. "What was good enough for his father was good enough for him." How many men have we to-day, who rely upon inherited strength, of tradition or superstition, to justify a useless, sensual, unambitious life. Who lay upon their ancestors the responsibility for their present course, and ask the past for approval instead of looking ahead, and shaping their lives so as to obtain the sanction of the future. So the mighty Amal lived and died. He was induced to express a belief in Christianity, but in his last hour the force of tradition again asserted itself. And when informed of the downward tendency of his ancestors, he was content to give up his life with the practical man's motto, "their lot is good enough for me."

The next higher of these three central figures is Philammon, the monk. He is the Goth's opposite in high aims, as well as in culture. Yet with his realizing sense of the vanities of the world. In his excessive zeal for the conversion of mankind, he meets with such rebuffs as cause him to envy the Goth's contented ignorance. He aimed at perfection, yet found at every turn in the path of life, that he was but a man. Although voluntarily withdrawn from the world, he longs to see, to enjoy, and judge for himself. He prays the Lord to turn his eyes from vanity, yet looks nevertheless. When assailed by temptation, he takes refuge in prayer, and then—yields. The world did for him what it has done for many educated men since, it besieged him with doubts, fears, and contradictions, until he longed for a blissful ignorance, as a refuge from the follies of wisdom. Yet, Philammon, withal was one whose failure should be wept, not hissed. We must not pity the soldier's scars, for they tell of the heat of battle, loyalty, courage, and the grandest of all human sentiments—patriotism. Let us look kindly then upon one who defended virtue against vice, who stepped forward hopefully, fought bravely, and yet, when the day was done, had naught but bruises to show how he kept face to the foe. Do you know such a one, whose cherished hopes are destined never to be fulfilled? If so speak kindly to him. He is but one more added to the number of

heroes unsung. There are many unrecorded lives, many nameless graves, in this wide world, which man should delight to honor, which woman's hand should decorate with flowers.

And so the Goth untaught, and content—ate, drank and slept, and proved that he was a brute; while Philammon with the loftiest ambition, the purest motives, only succeeded in proving that he was but a man.

The most strongly-marked character of the book is Raphael Aben-Ezra. He was given health, wealth, and culture. The world attracted him, he yielded to its blandishments and became a votary of pleasure. Yet he is so much a man, that in this very excess of pleasure, he sees the need of some higher aim, some nobler purpose. And so mind triumphed over the appetite for pleasure, and drove him forth among his fellow men to seek for his better self. Here he gropes about in the twilight, seeking—he knows not what, until uncertainty grows into absolute doubt, 'till twilight deepens into darkness, and he has reached the "Bottom of the Abyss." He has now lost his belief in duty, his trust in man, and begins to doubt himself. But in this extremity, as in his excess of pleasure, contentment is denied him—Mind cannot rest here and attempts the solution of that great problem "Given self, to find God. And so Raphael in this abyss of distrust, upon the floor of the primeval nothing, ~~feels to build~~ a tower which shall reach the light of day. This chapter headed, the "Bottom of the abyss," is a unit. It might be taken out and read separately, pregnant as it is with the sophistries which a man will inflict upon himself, and suggesting the broad ties of humanity which must solve all such difficulties. We are wont to say, that a man becomes a skeptic from choice. The author proves conclusively, that any responsibilities would be gratefully accepted as a refuge from such an atmosphere of doubt.

Raphael seeks in all directions for something upon which to rest his burdens. The bigotry of the church required too much ignorance, its superstitions asked for too much imagination. He is at last led to the Book of Books to interpret for himself, and found consolation and comfort, and heard like a strain of celestial music, the divine promise of "Peace on earth and good will to men." But how was Raphael rescued from himself? By a mere human cry for sympathy and help; he had drifted, with the animals, for many days, when a dove appeared in the person of Victoria, bearing the olive branch of peace. How was he directed to the Bible? The author seems to say, that having brought him in contact with a pure woman, he has insured Raphael's return to his better self. That all good and pure things are related, and even as the flower points to the sunlight, as the source of its beauty, so our association with pure men and women leads us back to the source of their purity.

Much in the same way as we have shown these three characters, the reader will find Hypatia, Pelagia, and Victoria confronting each other in different stages of culture and each suggesting the ideal woman. Hypatia's zeal and genius could create sophisms so plausible as to deceive their author; yet this very enthusiasm is used, to show her lack of feminine traits which should

be the pride of every true woman. Her life warns us of Philosophers who claim that their theory fits the world, when as the author expresses it they have clipped the world to fit their theories. It shows us that zeal is not worth, and that plans for salvation are easily invented and easily forgotten. Is there anything in the life of this enthusiast which might benefit the revivalist of to-day? We only ask the question.

Pelagia, on the other hand, lacked the high aims and aspirations of her rival. Her beauty was her pride, innocence her defender. Yet she gave evidence of a hidden beauty, in hating the "Alruna Maiden," who esteemed herself above pleasure, and "too pure to love a man."

The author gives much space to the delineation of these two characters. But when he comes to Victoria, he seems to say, here is the true woman, let those who possess her purity fully appreciate her. Her deeds are few but marked by charity. Her sayings are not many, but of that gentle, womanly kind, which you and I seldom hear. We know, from the moment of Victoria's introduction that we have at last found true womanhood. One whose pride will be in her sons, and whose rights are secured to her through their love. Whose mission on earth is to refine and encourage. We do not ~~consider whether she would be better with the right~~ of Suffrage, but we know, that as in Raphael we saw the germ of manhood which must civilize the world. So we see in Victoria, the woman who must aid in the work and share his throne. As regards the book in general, to the attentive reader it will be a favor conferred by the author. It is emphatically a work which sets one thinking and hence is beneficial. Charles Kingsley will be gratefully remembered, if posterity will but study the matter and manner of his thought.

Great men reproduce themselves in their works. In the case of the novelist, this may be done by assuming a character, or by making one of these "creatures of fancy" adopt his ideas and defend them. This last privilege Bulwer misuses to state his literary prejudices, Thackeray avails himself of to express his so-called cynical ideas. And 'tis this which Charles Kingsley uses to show us "Old foes with new faces." He states both sides of the question fully and fairly, and as a consequence establishes his own theory more firmly. He has not given us here, his private life, but that which is of more importance, his manner of thinking and its results. The author does not forsake the legitimate function of the novelist, the portrayal of character, but under his hands it seems to take on a new form. There is such an excellent contrasting of truth with theory, of wisdom with brute force, of Goth with Greek, that one sees the intent in each case, yet wonders how one man at the same time could occupy such diverse plans of thought. His characters seem to stand face to face, pointing to a happy medium, which is the true model. Each theory is confronted by its opposite, and these seem to unite in suggesting better thoughts, more temperate beliefs. The extremes merge into what is better than either—the truth.

THE COMMENCEMENT APPOINTMENTS.

THE BERKELEYAN has always endeavored to be the representative of the students of the University in all matters of general interest. It has never sought opportunity to criticise any act of the Faculty; but whenever a difference of view has existed in any considerable degree between Faculty and students, it has in all cases tried to state fairly the views of the latter. And all parties have admitted that it is right that the College paper should take this stand-point, if it only is careful not to be too hasty in statement or too reckless in spirit. Now in present circumstances we do not think that we shall go beyond what we have a right to do if we express both surprise and regret at the principle on which the appointments for the coming commencement have been made. We do not do this for the sake of arousing any kind of discussion, but because we know that discussion has been already aroused, and because we feel that our duty as representatives is to state a view which seems not to have met the approval of the Faculty, but which is almost universal among the students. Whatever we say is not intended to reflect on any one, but only to uphold a principle. And we believe that all the gentlemen who have received appointments will agree with nearly, if not quite all our remarks.

It is a universal rule of justice, that rewards for any kind of excellence should be given in kind. He who is a noted politician, is rightly to be rewarded with office. He who is a good general should, if we wish to show him honor as such, be promoted in his rank in the service. And so in every occupation, in rewarding every species of excellence. Furthermore not only is this just, but by doing it the great advantage is gained of getting the right man in the right place. He who is rewarded in kind is thereby better fitted to do honor to himself and to those who rewarded him. But when generals are rewarded with political advancement, the result is not always perfectly satisfactory, nor is it to be expected that it should be so. The man who excels in any branch should be rewarded by promotion or distinction in that branch, and in no other, not only for the sake of justice, but because such a man has especially shown his fitness to fill well offices in the branches in which he has excelled.

If this is so, and we can see no doubt of it, it would be difficult to determine exactly how this principle has been carried out in making the appointments of which we speak. Let us examine the matter more particularly.

The majority of the gentlemen who have received the Commencement appointments have been, during their course, specialists in non-literary branches, and they have adhered closely to their specialties. They have said as plainly as word and deed could say, "we are not and do not expect to make the endeavor to be, literary." They have given themselves to their own branches to the exclusion, to a considerable extent, of other pursuits. Whenever opportunities have been offered to them to come forward under any circumstances in a literary capacity, they have tacitly or openly declined. And in consequence they have excelled in their specialties. They

have voluntarily foregone prominence in other departments than their own, for the sake of success. They have, they should have, in future years they will have still more, the reward that they deserve; a reward in kind for their efforts. But now at the end of their work here, there is suddenly conferred upon them a new and strange honor. Because they have succeeded in scientific or technical studies, they are to be awarded literary honors, or rather they are to be asked to make an attempt to represent themselves, their instructors, their class, and their community, in a field which they have heretofore voluntarily and deliberately refrained from entering, and which is entirely new to them. Without taking too much upon ourselves, we can safely say that these gentlemen would much rather see others in their positions than to occupy them themselves under these circumstances.

The Senior Class can furnish men both in the literary department and out of it, who are, in a degree, prepared by the direction their labors have taken to appear on such an occasion as Commencement. There are in proportion more special technical students in that class, no doubt, than there were in the class of last year, and fewer who have had anything to do with literary work in addition to what was required by their studies. But still, it cannot for a moment be claimed that no others than the ones selected could be found to fill the positions on the final day. And it seems strange under these circumstances, that the selection should have been made on the principle that has been followed.

If we understand the rule according to which the appointments we are speaking of have been made, that rule has been to take those students who were highest in the different departments, the rank being determined by the marks given during the course. Well, so be it. But marks, if we have any appreciation of their value, indicate the proficiency in any branch in so far as it can be obtained by the judgement of the professors. Is it then right that proficiency in a scientific or a technical specialty, should be made the ground of choice in determining those who are to appear on a difficult occasion, at an exercise that has not the remotest connection with the technical branch itself? One great argument for the marking system has always been that rough as it is, it is the only measure of comparative standing that can be practically applied. But surely, when it is no longer a matter of comparative standing, but of capacity for a particular occasion, the Faculty can guess a great deal nearer than marks can tell them. In fact all would rather have the result of their guess in such a matter, than the most mathematical determination that marks carried to two decimal places could afford under any circumstances, or if prepared with any possible degree of care.

It may be said that tradition compels the appointment of those students who have received the highest marks in the various branches. If this be true, we can only say that such a tradition is unjust in any case, and especially unjust when applied to an institution where so many separate branches are followed as are followed here. We are not referring to the awarding of honors or of

medals, or of any such distinctions. We are not for a moment implying that the gentlemen appointed do not deserve, each in his own branch, the distinctions they have worked for and received. But we do speak in behalf of them, in behalf of the students, in behalf of many of the friends of the Institution, when we say that we heartily wish that the honors in this case had been awarded in kind, as is done in other cases. Let those who have worked for marks, have them by all means. Let those who have conscientiously and earnestly striven for the mastery of technical branches, receive all the fruits that their excellence merits. But let those who are to be appointed to perform an important and responsible task, be chosen from among the ones whose tastes and efforts have at least in a degree prepared them for it.

We hope that in making these criticisms we have not transcended our sphere. We have said what we have said because we believe that it is the truth, because we feel that it expresses the sentiments of a large number, and because we hope that some means may be found, if not this year, at any rate in future, to cause a better understanding, and to make a more discriminating choice. We are sorry that what we say may seem to some as if it were aimed at some of the gentlemen who were appointed, but we are sure that they at least will understand what we mean, and that they will to a great degree, themselves sympathize with us. The responsibility that has been laid upon them must be more a matter of duty than an honor. And it is partly in defence of them, and in explanation of their situation that we write; as much for this cause as for any other.

J. ROYCE.

THE BLUE AND GOLD.

Volume II of the students' catalogue—THE BLUE AND GOLD has just been issued by the Juniors. It compares very favorably with any of the catalogues issued by the Eastern Colleges. One feature is that the border surrounding each page is gold bronze. It contains eighty pages, being considerably larger than the number of last year, published by the class of '75, but that being the first was an experiment. We are glad to say that the success of a Junior catalogue is now assured, and it has become one of the features of the year. Copies may be had by applying to the business managers—price fifty cents.

On the seventh of May Governor Pacheco and Major General Thompson and staff will visit the University. At that time there will be a Dress Parade and Review of the Battalion. At Dress Parade an announcement will be made of the commissions assigned to the officers for the present year.

The Review will take place in the afternoon. A band has been engaged for the occasion. It is expected that the Battalion will compare at least favorably with the regiments of the National Guard.

The following appointments for Commencement have been agreed upon by the Faculty:

D. B. HUNTLEY—Scientific Oration with the Valedictory.

I. T. HINTON—Philosophical Oration.

F. S. SUTTON—English Oration.

A. D. D'ANCONA—Latin Oration.

J. ROYCE—Classical Oration.