

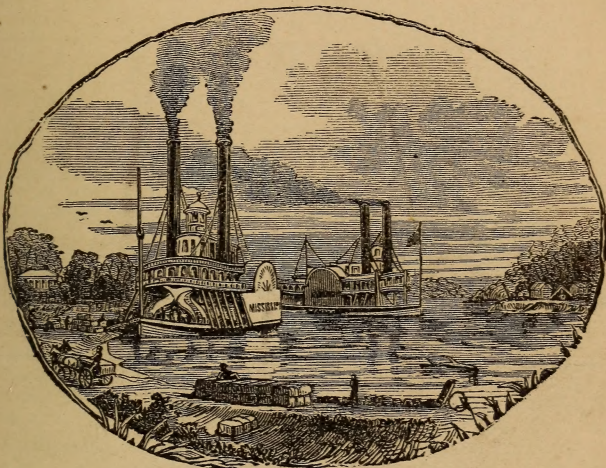
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STERLING'S

SOUTHERN ORATOR:

CONTAINING

STANDARD LECTURES IN PROSE AND POETRY FOR DECLAMATION
AND RECITATION IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

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BY
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PROF. RICHARD STERLING, A.M.,

PRINCIPAL OF EDGEWORTH FEMALE SEMINARY.

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We can scarcely contemplate a sublimer spectacle than that of a virtuous youth, urged on in his struggle for knowledge, not only by the love of science and by a sense of its importance, but burning with the holy purpose of making, by his mental triumphs, a father's heart beat with delight, and a mother's breast glow with rapture; sacrificing, with manly energy, the customary follies of his age, yielding his soul to the effort, and, like a successful competitor in a mighty race, pressing onward to the goal of honors, fame, and wealth. If the bosom of a parent ever burns with joy, it is in witnessing the efforts of such a son.

If, when contemplating the possibility of his own premature dismissal from the world, his soul can advert with comfort to any anchor for the shattered vessel which he leaves behind, it is when, revolving in the recesses of his burdened mind the prospects and fortunes of his bereaved family, he augurs, from the energy, the decision, the diligence, the character of *a son*, that his wife and children will yet have *one around whom* they may cling with hope; one arm to stay them in distress; one pillar to support them; one shield to ward from them the perils of desolate widowhood and of orphan helplessness.

Take, then, young gentlemen, a retrospect of your past lives; and when, from the giddy thoughtlessness of youth, your consciences shall reproach and chide you with neglect and disobedience, hasten to ask forgiveness, and renew your vows of veneration and fidelity.

And be assured, my dear young friends, that when the progress of time, or the casualties of life, or the invasions of disease shall bring on that painful moment in which you are to take a last look of the parent who has watched and worked for you, the remembrance of your efforts to gratify him will send through your hearts a thrill of satisfaction which monarchs on a throne might envy.

CLXXIV.

RELIGION AND MEDICINE.—REV. T. V. MOORE, D.D.

The medical character demands the aid of Religion.—That mingling of tenderness and firmness, patience and promptness, candor and self-constraint, caution and courage,

that are required in the good physician, is inculcated by the religion of Christ. A gentle, kind, and sympathizing manner is one of the most priceless qualifications of a physician. Many a man with such a manner and inferior skill to another without it has distanced him immensely in the practice of his profession. We may not dislike the rough and boisterous man in health; but in sickness we are all children, and the tender hand, the quiet step, the sympathizing eye and the gentle voice of the beloved physician come like sunshine to the soul, and are often better than drugs to the body. But nothing can permanently produce such a manner but genuine sympathy and kindness of soul, for it cannot be wholly counterfeited, and this is the very state of heart which true religion aims to produce. That gentleness, patience, and kindness that are so priceless in a physician are the very graces which religion produces in the soul.

The responsibilities of his profession equally call for it. He is intrusted with the lives, the honor, and the most secret and confidential facts of personal and domestic life. He comes in contact with all classes, rich and poor, virtuous and vile, in the very condition where they are most open to moral and religious influence. He has the most familiar admission to the entire range of human society, at the periods when human hearts are most susceptible and impressible. A physician, therefore, has opportunities of usefulness that no other man possesses, and a word from him will often do far more than many words from a minister, which would be received as only professional. Hence, he has opportunities to do good to the soul, for which God will hold him accountable. To meet responsibilities like these he needs the aid of religion.

His toils also demand it. His life is one of labor and trial. He must be ready to answer every call by night and by day, in sunshine and in storm, often among the poor and degraded, where he can hardly expect even thanks for his most toilsome exertions; must deny himself many of the enjoyments of home, literature, and travel that are open to others; must brave unshrinkingly pestilence and contagion, more terrible than a battery of cannon; must encounter squalor, filth, and poverty in their most loathsome form, and confront death in its most appalling and repulsive approaches. To meet all these aright, surely requires the aid of religion, without adverting to the fact that he who has

aided others so often in sickness and death must at last meet them himself, and may find in his own case what he could not but have seen in others, that a death-bed is not the place to do the work of a life.

CLXXV.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN RESOURCES.

WILLIAM H. GARLAND.

It is pleasing, with folded arms, to stand and gaze at the gorgeous sunset; to mark each floating cloud as it is touched with its golden fringe, and weave fancy after fancy into a bright tissue for the future; thus to stand until the stars peep out, and then, with a bound of the spark ethereal, which gives life and variety to man's thoughts, pass from star to star, peopling them with our thoughts, and filling them with our fancies; but while we are pursuing these fancies of the mind, Nature in her changes reminds us, by the gathering darkness and falling dew, that man's life was not to be all a dream, but that on him rested high responsibilities; that, while he was thus indulging in pleasing fancies, and permitting the mind to waste itself in dreams, he was neglecting the development of those blessings which Nature has so bounteously bestowed on him.

In this day and time, when the mind is exercising its sovereignty over matter, the truth is felt and recognized that the gathering of the fruit, and the enjoyment of the blessings of heaven, belong not to the inert and slothful, but to those who, by the employment of those faculties of the mind with which a good God has blessed them, render the things of this world subservient to the great ends of their creation, the happiness and perfection of man. Let not, then, this convention waste its time on the pleasing fancies that cluster around abstract questions; but let it, like that circlet of stars, cluster around one great idea, until their concentrated rays shall form one burning centre, so bright that the path which leads to the power, prosperity, and happiness of the South shall be so plain that none will hesitate.