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fashion, a large part of our traditionary narratives and humor, and sketches of local biography, are mingled with the oaths and intoxication of the inn, or the more dangerous language and examples of fashionable dinner-parties and drinking-bouts in city life.

The writer's descriptions of natural scenery, are too vague. When among the White Mountains,—those wonders of desolate sublimity,—he does not succeed in conveying any just or adequate pictures of the grandeur around him. Many scenes of incomparable beauty, that lay on his route, he passes by without noticing at all. Now, if he had left out his speculations,—some of which are on subjects he does not appear to understand,—and supplied their place by faithful sketches of what he himself saw, the book would have been vastly superior. As it is, however, it is an agreeable little volume, and deserves especial praise for the good feelings and pure principles, so often expressed and advocated in its sprightly pages.

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*A Discourse pronounced at the Inauguration of the author as Royal Professor of Law in Harvard University, August 29, 1834. By Simon Greenleaf.*

*The Teacher's Office—Inaugural Address of Rufus Babcock, jun. President of Waterville College, July 29, 1834.*

*Baccalaureate Address, delivered August 11, 1834, at the Third Annual Commencement of the University of the State of Alabama. By Alva Woods, President of the University.*

We have read each of these addresses with pleasure. That of President Woods, addressed to the graduating class, is rich in good advice, uttered in kindness, and in a style of affectionate simplicity. The importance of industry, perseverance, and constancy, in whatever profession the scholar may design to pursue, is earnestly recommended.

The address of President Babcock is an attempt to illustrate the objects of the Teacher's Office,—viz: To secure mental discipline; or, so to develop and cultivate the original faculties that their exercise shall be made as prompt and exact, as vigorous and various as possible;—to store the mind with the greatest possible amount of useful knowledge; and, to give to all our powers a right direction. It is a sensible discourse, and furnishes many remarks worthy of the attention of teachers. The truth embraced in the following short passage, is worthy the serious attention of parents and legislators:—

\* \* The attempt which has been made to raise a popular clamor against the higher seminaries of learning, for the alleged purpose of giving more aid to common schools, is as wise and consistent as it would be to sever the head from the human body, in order to favor the limbs. The one cannot long flourish without the other; and mutual hostility between their friends will be suicidal to the best interests of both.

Of the discourse of Mr. Greenleaf, it is hardly within our power to speak in terms of exaggerated praise. If our limits permitted, we should avail ourselves of the absence of a "copy-right," to enrich our pages with the whole of it. We have room only for a single extract, and we select the last paragraph, not because it is the most eloquent, but because it has reference to one of the means of eliciting truth, which a portion of our fellow-citizens,—and, we regret to say, an increasing portion,—are laboring to deprive of its sanctions.

But it matters little to the peace of society, how wise or upright the judge or the jury may be, if their means of ascertaining truth are feeble and inefficient; since judgements and decisions will be respected only in proportion to their supposed agreement with the actual merits of the case, in fact, as well as in law. The great instrument of eliciting truth is the hold obtained upon the conscience through the medium of an oath. The force of this hold will depend on the sense of moral obligation and accountability in the person taking it; and to strengthen, rather than to impair this, seems peculiarly to be demanded of us, who have such frequent occasion to resort to its agency. The utility of judicial tribunals is thus referred at last to the sanctions afforded by religion. In this country, religion in all its forms is freely tolerated; but its existence in any form, is left to depend on the support of public opinion. And the founder of our nation has remarked, that "in proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it should be enlightened." Christianity finds its claim to our belief upon the weight of the evidence by which it is supported. This evidence is not peculiar to the department of theology; its rules are precisely those by which the law scans the conduct and language of men on all other subjects, even in their daily transactions. This branch of the law is one of our particular study. It is our constant employment to explore the mazes of falsehood, to detect its doublings, to pierce its thickest veils; to follow and expose its sophistries; to compare, with scrupulous exactness, the testimony of different witnesses, to examine their motives and their interests; to discover truth and separate it from error. Our fellow-men know this to be our province; and perhaps this knowledge may have its influence to a greater extent than we or even they imagine. We are therefore required by the strongest motives,—by personal interest, by the ties of kindred and friendship, by the claims of patriotism and philanthropy, to examine, and that not lightly, the evidences on which Christianity challenges our belief, and the degree of credit to which they are entitled. The Christian religion is part of our common law, with the very texture of which it is interwoven. Its authority is frequently admitted in our statute-books; and its holy things are there expressly guarded from blasphemy and desecration. If it be found, as indeed it is, a message of peace on earth and good will to men; exhibiting the most perfect code of morals for our government, the purest patterns of exalted virtue for our imitation, and the brightest hopes, which can cheer the heart of man; let it receive the just tribute of our admiring approval, our reverential obedience, and our cordial support. I would implore the American lawyer unhesitatingly to follow in this, as in the other elements of the law, the great masters and sages of his profession; and while with swelling bosom he surveys the countless benefits rendered to his country by this his favorite science, let him not withhold from the Fountain and Source of all Law the free service of undissembled homage.

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#### OUR FILE.

We have on file for publication, or other disposition after consideration,—

"Thoughts among the White Mountains;"

"The Secret, a Tale of German Life;"

"Desultory Essays on Taste, No I.;"

"Common Metaphors;"

"True Philosophy," &c. &c.

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