

ripe age of twenty-seven, was making his first rude efforts in composition in Trinity College ; Sir Matthew Hale was administering justice in London, and planning his great law works ; and, though Hampden and Selden were both in their graves at the time, the former, had he escaped the fatal shot, would still have been in but middle life, and the latter was but four years dead. The group was assuredly a very marvellous one. It passed away, however, like all that is of earth ; and there arose that other group of men, admirable in their proportions, but of decidedly lower stature, that all in any degree acquainted with English literature recognise as the wits of Queen Anne. To this lower but very exquisite group, the Popes, Swifts, and Addisons, the Gays, Parnells, and Priors, belong. It also passed ; and a still lower group arose, with, it is true, a solitary Johnson and Burke raising their head and shoulders above the crowd, but attaining not, at least in the mass, to the stature of their immediate predecessors. And they themselves were well aware of their inferiority. Is the reader possessed of a copy of Anderson's "Poets ?" From its chronological arrangement, it illustrates very completely the progress of that first great cycle of production from the higher to the lower minds to which we refer ; and with the works of the Jenyns, the Whiteheads, the Cottons, and the Blacklocks, the collection closes. And then the cycle, as if the moving spring had been suddenly wound up to its original rigidity, begins anew. The gigantic figure of Napoleon appears as the centre of a great historic group ; and we see ranged around him the tall figures of statesmen such as Pitt and Fox ; of soldiers such as Soult, Ney, and Wellington ; of popular agitators such as Cobbett and O'Connell ; of theological writers and leaders such as Hall, Foster, and Andrew Thomson ; and of literary men such as Goëthe, Chateaubriand, Sir Walter Scott, and Wordsworth. The group is very decidedly one of men large and