

stitution to the American people. The essays appeared in the interval between the publication and the adoption of the Constitution.

14. Who were the two most noted poets of the Revolutionary Era?

Philip Freneau and *John Trumbull*. Trumbull's *McFingal*, a satirical poem in the style of Butler's *Hudibras*, is still published and read.

15. Who was the greatest orator of the Revolution?

Patrick Henry, whose fiery, trumpet-toned eloquence aroused the Colonies and infused the courage to battle for liberty into the hearts of his timid, hesitating countrymen.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER I., BOOK IV.

1. Some strong external influence was required to consolidate the thirteen English Colonies, and such an event was *the French and Indian War*.

2. The next great event that drew them together in still closer union was the *American Revolution*, and from this glorious event we date the birth of a new nation.

3. Franklin is the *first* American writer of distinction.

4. *Bird's-eye view of the chief American writers and works of the eighteenth century:*

Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*.
George Washington, *Farewell Address*.
Thomas Jefferson, *The Declaration of Independence*.
Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist* (in part).
James Madison, *The Federalist* (in part).
Philip Freneau, *Poems*.
John Trumbull, *McFingal*.
Patrick Henry, *Speeches*.*

* For a very full account of early American literature, see Tyler's *History of American Literature*.

CHAPTER II.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

A.D. 1800 to 1900.

THE AGE OF IRVING, LONGFELLOW, AND BROWNSON.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

"The number of good writers truly American, by which we mean all those who are not imitators of foreign modes, might be counted on the fingers of the two hands. In the politer walks of literature we find much grace of style, but very little originality of thought—productions which might as readily be taken for the work of an Englishman as of an American."—*Francis Parkman*.

1. A GLIMPSE AT THE UNITED STATES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—The history of this Republic during the Nineteenth Century was, on the whole, one of peace and marvellous progress. From 1801 to 1901 twenty-two Presidents ruled the nation. We have had four wars. The conflict known as the War of 1812 was caused by the insolent attitude of England and her outrageous claim to search American vessels on the high seas. The war with Mexico, which began in 1845, added a large strip of continent to our territory. The late civil war, however terrible in some aspects, happily settled two momentous questions that had long agitated the country.

(1) It abolished slavery.

(2) It solemnly decided that no State or number of

* Most of the European monarchies have had from four to eight wars, or more, during the same period.

States has the right to withdraw from the Union known as the United States.

When the first census of this country was taken in 1790, it showed a population of over three millions of inhabitants. These brave, intelligent people had just commenced the most interesting political experiment in the history of mankind—they had undertaken to govern themselves. Heaven blessed the undertaking. We see its success. The population of the United States in 1900 was over eighty millions. Our territory has grown even more rapidly than our population. The thirteen original States occupied little more than a narrow strip of country along the Atlantic coast, with claims as far west as the Mississippi. By purchase or conquest, the whole country west of the Father of Waters has since been added. This Republic is not merely one nation, but a grand cluster of nations—the most numerous and extensive alliance of States that has ever been known in the history of the world.

2. THE CHIEF AGENTS THAT INFLUENCED THE LITERATURE OF THIS PERIOD.—It has been well remarked that “after the achievement of independence and the establishment of a national government, the American people were too busy in the work of national progress to give much attention to literature and science. There were, indeed, some honorable exceptions to this remark. But, on the whole, the growth of the nation in this direction was by no means equal to its progress in other respects.”

In the early years of the century an American book with the stamp of ability on it was such a rare article that the *Edinburgh Review* asked with a sneer, “Who reads an American book?” Time has made a

considerable change. The London *Athenæum*, in 1880, declared that “an American book has nearly always something fresh and striking about it to English readers.”

It is deeply to be regretted that much of the best American literature of the present age is tinged with anti-Catholic intolerance, or disfigured with calumnies against the Catholic religion. Let us glance at some representative authors. *Irving* is a writer of high character, yet in his *Newstead Abbey* we find the following gross calumny: “One of the parchment scrolls—found in the eagle of molten brass—throws rather an awkward light upon the kind of life led by the friars of Newstead. It is an indulgence granted to them for a certain number of months, in which plenary pardon is assured in advance for all kinds of crime.” In 1836, Bishop Clancy, coadjutor of Charleston, in a private letter called the attention of Irving to this passage. The author confessed, in relation to the document cited, that he “did not examine it particularly,” and that he had “written without sufficient circumspection.” Such are his own words. He promised, however, to investigate the matter, and to correct his blunder in a future edition. About a year later, Dr. Clancy was transferred to the see of Demerara, and on his way through England he visited Newstead Abbey, and made a careful examination of the old parchment mentioned by Irving. And what was it? “So far from being an indulgence,” says Dr. Clancy, “to friars from a Pope or Bishop, or any ecclesiastical authority, it is a pardon for civil offences which an English king thought proper to impart to real or imaginary offenders against the forest-laws in Sherwood, county of Nottingham.” The

offensive passage in *Newstead Abbey* has never been expunged. It can be seen to this day in the latest editions of the book, and it certainly places Irving, and not the friars, in "an awkward light." * "When the world has once got hold of a lie," says Bulwer, "it is astonishing how hard it is to get it out of the world. You beat it about the head until it seems to have given up the ghost, and lo! the next day it is as healthy as ever."

Bancroft was a distinguished historian, but his *History of the United States* contains many things that cannot fail to insult the Catholic reader. In the recent final revision of that work, made by his own hand, he altered nearly every passage which, in fifteen former editions, were complimentary to the Catholic founders of Maryland. He flatly contradicted himself. Bigotry in old age is odious, and Bancroft is eighty-four.

Prescott is a virulent libeller of the Catholic religion in his *History of Ferdinand and Isabella*. Sometimes his ill-breeding shows itself in using the nickname "Romish" for the title Catholic. His cold bigotry even affects translated passages in his works. In *The Conquest of Mexico* he has a long quotation from Bernal Diaz as to the character of Cortés. The old Spaniard states that the great general was "most true in his devotions to the Holy Virgin." Prescott omits the adjective "holy," and writes "Virgin."

The illustrious missionary Father Jogues, S.J., after many hardships, and in the dress of a beggar, landed

* The correspondence that passed between Bishop Clancy and Washington Irving in relation to the foregoing affair can be seen in Clarke's *Lives of the Deceased Bishops of the Catholic Church in the U. S.*, Vol. II.

on the coast of Brittany early on Christmas morning. He went to Mass and received the Holy Communion, of which he had been deprived for sixteen months. This incident is thus recounted by the eminent historian Parkman, in his fascinating volume *The Jesuits in North America*: "He reached the church in time for evening Mass, and with an unutterable joy knelt before the altar and renewed the Communion of which he had been so long deprived." Who ever heard of "evening Mass" on Christmas Day, or any other day? In another place in the same work, Parkman writes of the martyred Father Garnier, S.J.: "The affections of his sensitive nature, severed from earthly objects, found relief in an ardent adoration of the Virgin Mary." Father Garnier and all good Catholics adore God alone. The holy Jesuit had an ardent devotion to the Blessed Virgin, not adoration.

Bryant's longest poem is *The Ages*, and it is pervaded with a spirit bitterly anti-Catholic.

The best Protestant culture and scholarship of New England appears to be so handicapped by an ignorant, ingrained intolerance as to be unable to rise to the height of making itself familiar with the *name, doctrines, and practices* of the greatest and most ancient religious institution in the world—the Catholic Church. The ablest non-Catholic writers of that section of our country seem unable ever to rid their vocabulary of the cant words "Romish" and "Popish"—offensive nicknames that belong to the dark period of the penal laws. They seem incapable of ever comprehending the true theological meaning of the word *indulgence*, and that Catholics neither go to "evening Mass" nor "adore" the Most Holy Virgin.

No; these gentlemen continue to write from an ignorance boundless and lamentable—a prejudiced ignorance that will reflect severely upon themselves, mar their future fame, and present them to posterity in a light not to be envied.

America offers a vast field for original literary effort, until our day very slightly cultivated. A slavish imitation of English models was too much the fashion. It served to stifle healthy originality and manly independence of thought. "In respect to every department of active life," said an eminent American writer, "the United States are fully emancipated from their ancient colonial subjection. They can plan, invent, and achieve for themselves, and this, too, with a commanding success. But in all the finer functions of thought, in all matters of literature and taste, we are essentially provincial. England once held us in a state of political dependency. That day is past; but she still holds us in an intellectual dependency far more complete. Her thoughts become our thoughts by a process unconscious but inevitable. She caters for our mind and fancy with a liberal hand. We are spared the labor of self-support; but by the universal law, applicable to nations no less than to individuals, we are weakened by the want of independent exercise. It is a matter of common remark that the most highly educated classes among us are far from being the most efficient in thought or action. The vigorous life of the nation springs from the deep rich soil at the bottom of society. Its men of greatest influence have studied man before they studied books, have hewed their own way to wealth, station, or

knowledge from the plowshare or the forecastle. The comparative shortcomings of the best educated among us may be traced to several causes; but, as we are constrained to think, they are mainly owing to the fact that the highest civilization of America is communicated from without, instead of being developed from within, and is therefore nerveless and unproductive."* Happily this criticism is not true of to-day; the field is being well worked and the results receive the praise of the world.

LESSON I.

WASHINGTON IRVING. DIED 1859.

Chief works: (1) *Knickerbocker's History of New York*.
 (2) *The Sketch-Book*.
 (3) *The Life of Columbus*.
 (4) *The Conquest of Granada*.
 (5) *The Life of Washington*.

1. Who was Washington Irving?

Washington Irving, the Goldsmith of America, was a most distinguished essayist, historian, and biographer. He is perhaps the most popular of all American authors.

2. Give a short account of his life.

He was born and educated in New York City, spent many years in Europe, and was the first American that made literature a profession.

3. What is *Knickerbocker's History of New York*?

It is a burlesque chronicle, written in such a quiet

* Periodical literature has had an unparalleled development in the United States. The earliest American newspaper was the *Boston News Letter*, founded in 1704. There are now over 11,000 newspapers, magazines, and reviews in this Republic. Among the best-known magazines and reviews are *The Century Magazine*, *The Catholic World*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, *The North American Review*, and *The American Catholic Quarterly Review*.

vein of comic humor that many a dull person has taken it for true history. Sir Walter Scott said that in reading it he laughed till his sides were sore.

4. What is the *Sketch-Book*?

It is an exquisite collection of light, charming sketches, tales, legends, descriptions, etc. The two most famous pieces are *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

5. What do you think of Irving's *Life of Columbus*?

It is a great work, marred, however, by some serious errors that do much injustice to the shining character of Columbus.*

6. What is *The Conquest of Granada*?

It is a chapter of Spanish history full of interest and romance.

7. Which is his last and largest biographical work?

The Life of Washington, the last volume of which was issued only three months before the death of Irving. It is a work truly worthy of the author and the illustrious subject.

"Irving as an historian is subject to one grave criticism. He is too diffuse in his treatment of the subject, and his style is at times altogether too fligid."—Hart.

"The *Sketch-Book*, on the whole, remains the best example of Irving's powers, combining, as it does, humor, pathos, and a wonderful felicity of description."—C. F. Richardson.

"As a writer, Irving may be safely pronounced to be the most popular of all American authors. His works are known and read by every one. Diedrich Knickerbocker, *Sleepy Hollow*, Dolf Heyliger, Ichabod Crane, and *Rip Van Winkle* have become household names and forms. No other creations of the imagination have taken such prominence in American literature."—Hart.

* Irving, adopting a gross error of some of the older and least trustworthy writers, says in several places that the relation of Columbus with his second wife was not sanctioned by marriage. The statement is false. It remained for the Count de Lorgues, about the middle of the present century, to give a grand quietus to this shameful slander about the great and holy discoverer of America. The error has not, however, been corrected in Irving's *Life of Columbus*.

LESSON II.

REPRESENTATIVE NOVELISTS.

8. What two writers may be safely chosen as our representative novelists?

Cooper and *Hawthorne*.

9. Tell us something of Cooper's career.

James Fenimore Cooper was born in New Jersey; studied for a time at Yale College; entered the navy, but devoted a large part of his life to literature. He was the first American writer to obtain a reputation in Europe, and his novels were translated into nearly every European language.

10. Name a few of his most admired productions.

The Spy, *The Pioneers*, and *The Last of the Mohicans*, all works of fiction. *The Spy*, the first successful American novel, was issued in 1821. It is a tale of the Revolution. The second pictures frontier life and glows with descriptions of forest scenery; the last is his most popular Indian tale.

11. Can you point out in a few words some of Cooper's merits and defects?

He is among the most original and truly national of American writers, and his best novels are full of romantic interest. But he is very unequal. He wrote much that is worthless. He has little humor or pathos; his descriptions are often wearisome in detail, and though his style is direct and manly, it is never graceful. His Indian characters are for the most part falsely drawn.

12. Do you know anything about Hawthorne's life?

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born at Salem, Massachusetts, and educated at Bowdoin College, whence

he graduated in 1825, with Longfellow as a classmate. He held a number of public offices, but the greater part of his life was passed in quiet seclusion.

13. Name his finest works.

The Scarlet Letter, a powerful romance of early life in New England; *The House of the Seven Gables*, an intense and solemn story, the scene of which is laid in Salem; and *The Marble Faun*, a romance of Italy.

14. Sum up Hawthorne's principal good qualities and defects as a writer.

Most critics place him at the head of American novelists. He was a master of pure idiomatic English. But, on the other hand, his pages are often tinged with gloom and melancholy—too much "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought."

"Cooper was American through and through. He did not hesitate, in some of his later stories, to satirize the 'louder' national characteristics; but to him more than to any other author is due the increasing attention to home subjects and heroes. From his writings, undoubtedly, a part of the English public got the impression—which it has with difficulty corrected—that buffaloes and Indians form the most conspicuous features in our civilization."
—Richardson.

"Hawthorne's greatest works are unquestionably *The Scarlet Letter*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, and *The Marble Faun*. Each of these is full of passages, long and intense, where the reader feels that every word is a thought or a picture. The characters are wonderfully defined by a succession of clear, delicate strokes, and move in an atmosphere of broadening fancy. One who feels himself strong enough to overcome the spell exerted by Hawthorne's melancholy genius can find no better model for style and expression."
—Hart.

LESSON III.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW. DIED 1882.

Chief works: (1) *Evangeline, and Other Poems*.
(2) *Prose Works*.
(3) *Translations*.

15. Who was Longfellow?

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the most distinguished of American poets, was a native of Portland, Maine. He was educated at Bowdoin College, and for a long time held the chair of rhetoric and literature in Harvard University. He devoted the last twenty-eight years of his life chiefly to letters.

16. Which is his most celebrated poem?

Evangeline, a Catholic tale, pathetic, religious, and beautiful. The choice of subject was very happy.* It is the most exquisite work of the kind in English literature.

17. Name some of his other poems.

The Golden Legend, a picture of civil and monastic life in the middle ages; *The Song of Hiawatha*, which deals in a rather misty manner with Indian life and legends; and *The Tales of a Wayside Inn*, a collection somewhat after the fashion of the *Canterbury Tales*.

* The tale of *Evangeline* is founded on a sad chapter of American history. The French were the first settlers of Nova Scotia, and under their rule it was known as *Acadie*, or *Acadia*. In 1755 the English, without any cause, brutally destroyed the French settlements of Acadia, and dispersed 18,000 souls over the other British colonies. The peaceful inhabitants—all Catholics—were compelled to give up their property, the houses and crops were burned before their eyes, and they themselves shipped in such haste that few families or friends remained together. "To this day," writes Hazletine, "the western coast of Nova Scotia, blessed as it is in a mild climate and fertile soil, discovers many traces of the patient industry which made this district a French Eden."

18. Mention a few of his finest and most admired short pieces.

The Psalm of Life, Excelsior, The Wreck of the Hesperus, The Village Blacksmith, and The Hanging of the Crane.*

19. Name two of Longfellow's most-admired prose works *Hyperion* and *Kavanagh*, two interesting romances.

20. Which is his chief work as a translator?

The Divine Comedy of Dante. He has preserved the spirit as well as the form of the original; and his work has been pronounced the best English rendering of the greatest work in Italian literature.

21. Can you point out some of the most noted merits and defects of Longfellow as a poet?

Longfellow was a trained word-artist, and his style is noted for grace, finish, and felicity, rather than vigor of thought or depth of passion. His characters do not stand before the mind with sufficient clearness. They pass like shadows. A good critic has remarked that *Evangeline*, of all the characters Longfellow has aimed to draw, stands forth in the memory of his readers with some distinctness of outline.

"Coming generations, it is believed, will cherish Longfellow chiefly as a sweet singer. His future fame will rest upon those

* Among its often-quoted stanzas are the following:

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

"Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again.

"Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

short, exquisitely simple utterances that speak for the weary heart and aching brain of all humanity."—*J. S. Hart.*

"Whatever shortcomings and limitations may be ascribed to Longfellow's genius, it is certain that no contemporary poet—not even Tennyson—has been so universally and cordially welcomed by the English-speaking race."—*Hazletine.*

LESSON IV.

REPRESENTATIVE ORATORS—WEBSTER, EVERETT,
PHILLIPS.

22. Who was Daniel Webster?

Daniel Webster, the son of a farmer, was born in New Hampshire, and educated at Dartmouth College. He studied law. He was a member of the United States Senate for eighteen years, was three times Secretary of State, and died in 1852.

23. What is his rank as an orator?

Among American orators it is commonly conceded that Webster holds the first place.

24. What do you remark of his style?

Webster's style is simple and luminous; it is remarkable for great vigor of reasoning and closeness of statement. It is impressive rather than brilliant, and occasionally rises to real grandeur.

25. Name some of his finest speeches.

The Reply to Hayne, the Bunker Hill Monument Discourse, and the Eulogy on Adams and Jefferson.

26. Who was Everett?

Edward Everett, one of the most distinguished of American orators, was born near Boston, educated at Harvard, and filled various public positions, as Secretary of State and U. S. Senator from Massachusetts. He died in 1865.

27. What is his chief literary work?

Orations, in four large volumes.

28. Mention one of the leading characteristics of his *Oration*s.

Everett's *Oration*s have a finish and symmetry which, on every page, give token of the richly-endowed and thorough scholar. The style is extremely graceful.

29. Who was Wendell Phillips?

Wendell Phillips, whose eloquent voice has been recently stilled in death, was a native of Boston and a graduate of Harvard. He was long an antislavery advocate, and won a high reputation as a lecturer on art and literature. Among his *Oration*s, the one on Daniel O'Connell is marked by his best characteristics.

"If Webster is the Michael Angelo of American oratory, Everett is the Raphael."—*Whipple*.

"Many judges rank Phillips above all other American orators in voice, delivery, personal magnetism, and all that constitutes the power of a public speaker."—*Hart*.

LESSON V.

THREE POETS—BRYANT, WHITTIER, HOLMES.

30. Who was Bryant?

William Cullen Bryant, a famous American poet, was born in Massachusetts; educated at Williams College; studied law, and was admitted to the bar. He finally devoted himself to journalism, and was editor of the New York *Evening Post* for over fifty years. He died, aged eighty-four, in 1878.

31. Name some of his most admired poems.

Thanatopsis, *To a Waterfall*, *The Forest Hymn*, and *The Planting of the Apple-Tree*. Bryant's

poems are neither so varied nor so numerous as those of Longfellow and Whittier.

32. What are some of his leading characteristics as a poet?

His pieces show care, finish, a love of nature, and—it must be added—a puritanical coldness.

33. Who was Whittier?

John Greenleaf Whittier, the most thoroughly American of all our poets, and next to Longfellow the most popular, was a native of Massachusetts, who began life as a farm-hand and shoemaker. The poet early began to edit a newspaper, and he devoted his life to literature.

34. Mention some of his most popular poems.

Snow-Bound, *Maud Muller*,† and *Barbara Frietchie*.

35. What does a recent critic say of the first-named poem?

"*Snow-Bound* is a genuine New England idyl, and puts between its covers more of the spirit of the region than any other American book. It will forever remain a national classic."

36. Who was Holmes?

Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of the wisest and wit-tiest of American writers and an eminent master of prose and verse, was born near Boston, and educated at Harvard. He studied medicine in Europe, and for over a third of a century filled the chair of anatomy in the medical school of Harvard. He devoted his leisure time to literature.

* In some of his poems Whittier, like Bryant, exhibits his ignorant anti-Catholic prejudices.

† *Maud Muller* contains the often-quoted couplet:

"For of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these: 'It might have been.'"

37. What do you remark of Holmes as a poet?

In neatness and finish he is hardly surpassed by Pope or Moore. He has written no long poem. Some of his best pieces are *The Last Leaf*, *Old Ironsides*, *The One-Horse Shay*, and a number of short lyrics that glitter with gems of thought.

38. In what line of prose-writing has Holmes acquired great fame?

As a writer of magazine articles. An eminent critic remarks that "no living magazinist, English or American, can equal him." *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table* has been widely admired.

"Bryant's poetry has truth, delicacy, and correctness, as well as uncommon vigor and richness. He is always faithful to nature; he selects his groups and images with judgment. Nothing is borrowed; nothing artificial; his pictures have an air of freshness and originality which could come from the student of nature alone."—*North American Review*.

"No American poet, it may be said, is so free as Whittier from obligations to English writers. He is eminently original and eminently American."—*Cathart*.

"The most concise, apt, and effective poet of the school of Pope this country has produced is Oliver Wendell Holmes, a Boston physician. His best lines are a series of rhymed pictures, witticisms, or sentiments, let off with the precision and brilliancy of the scintillations that sometimes illumine the northern horizon."—*Tuckerman*.

LESSON VI.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORIANS.*

39. What two eminent authors have most prominently identified themselves with the history of the United States?

Hildreth and *Bancroft*.

* Dr. David Ramsay was the earliest American historian of note. He died in 1815. His chief work is *A History of the United States*.

40. Who was Hildreth?

Richard Hildreth was a native of Massachusetts, and a graduate of Harvard University. His life was chiefly devoted to literature. He died in 1865, aged fifty-eight years.

41. Which is his principal work?

The *History of the United States*, from the discovery of America till 1820. It is in six volumes.

42. What are some of the merits and shortcomings of this work?

It is a plain, straightforward narrative, and is evidently the fruit of great care, labor, and research. The style is somewhat dry and cold.

43. Who was Bancroft?

George Bancroft, the most noted historian of the early affairs of this country, was a native of Massachusetts, was educated at Harvard University and in Germany, and held various public positions as Secretary of the Navy and Minister to England and to Germany.

44. To what work did he devote the best years of his life?

The *History of the United States*, which begins with Columbus, but only comes down to 1789. The first volume appeared in 1834, and the twelfth and last in 1882.

45. What may be said of the merits and defects of Bancroft's *History*?

As a record of the origin and early growth of the United States, it is undoubtedly the most finished and elaborate history that has yet appeared. But as we pass from volume to volume it is easy to see that the style is neither uniform nor always attractive. It is sometimes graceful and animated, then cold and inflated. Bancroft has cancelled his claims to im-

partially in the new revised edition of his work. He is partisan and anti-Catholic.

LESSON VII.

REPRESENTATIVE HISTORIANS.

46. What distinguished American historian took the romantic story of early Spanish America as a subject for the exhibition of his powers?

Prescott.

47. Tell us something of his life?

William Hickling Prescott, a native of Massachusetts, was educated at Harvard, where the throwing of a crust of bread by a thoughtless companion cost him one of his eyes, and almost led to total blindness. His quiet, uneventful life was chiefly devoted to the preparation of the works that have rendered his name famous. He died in 1859, aged sixty-three.*

48. Which are his principal works?

The History of Ferdinand and Isabella the Catholic, The History of the Conquest of Mexico, and The History of the Conquest of Peru.

49. Of these, which is the most finished and interesting production?

The History of the Conquest of Mexico. The wonderful interest of the narrative, the scenic descriptions, and the portraits of Cortés, Montezuma, and other personages, give it all the charm of an effective romance.

* *The Life of Prescott*, by George Ticknor, is one of the most admirable works in American biography.

50. What may be said of Prescott's style?

It is a style marked by clearness, simplicity, and classic excellence.

51. What eminent writer has recounted the discoveries, achievements, and misfortunes of the French in America?

Parkman.

52. Give a brief outline of his life.

Francis Parkman was a native of Boston, a graduate of Harvard, and, like Prescott, was partially blind. Before publishing anything he travelled on the western prairies, with a view of studying the manners and characteristics of the Indians:

53. Which was his first production of marked power?

History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac, published in 1851. It tells the story of one of the most thrilling episodes in American history.

54. Name some of his most noted works on the French in America.

The Pioneers of France in the New World, The Jesuits in North America, and La Salle, or the Discovery of the Great West. Parkman issued six works on this subject, which closed with Montcalm and the last years of French Canada.

55. Of all Parkman's works, which is perhaps the most admired?

The Jesuits in North America, which, in spite of many shortcomings, is the most exquisite volume in the whole range of our historical literature.*

* For the purely material facts of the Jesuit missions Parkman is entirely reliable; but, as a Catholic critic has well remarked, "Of the motives which governed the missionaries, of their faith and charity, as well as of their whole interior spiritual life, he understands less than did the untutored Indian."

56. What is your opinion of the style of this author?

It is a style of marvellous vigor, clearness, grace, and beauty. It lends a charm to the narrative. In power of description—of reproducing natural scenery with photographic vividness—Parkman is unapproached by any other American writer.

LESSON VIII.

THREE REPRESENTATIVE CATHOLIC WRITERS.

57. What three American Catholic prelates were especially noted for a clear, vigorous, popular style of writing?

Bishop England and *Archbishops Hughes* and *Spalding*.

58. Tell us something of Bishop England.

John England, first bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, was born, educated, ordained, and consecrated in Ireland. He established the first Catholic newspaper in this Republic.* He was a scholar—an apostle—one of the really great men of this century. He died in 1842, aged fifty-six.

59. Who first collected his works?

His successor, Dr. Reynolds, who had them published in five large octavo volumes. Bishop England's busy pen touched a wide range of subjects, historical and controversial. His chief aim was to present the Catholic Church and her doctrines and practices in their true light before the American people.

60. What is your opinion of his style?

It is clear, direct, witty, and energetic, and pervaded

* *The U. S. Catholic Miscellany*, in 1822.

with an Irish intensity of feeling. It is the style of a great intellect.

61. Give a short outline of the career of Archbishop Hughes.

John Hughes, first archbishop of New York, was born in Ireland, but educated in the United States. He was a man of far-reaching views and wonderful energy. He died in 1864, aged sixty-seven.

62. Do you know anything of Dr. Hughes as a writer?

After his death his writings were published in two large volumes which remain a monument of his uncommon power as an able essayist—a skilful and incisive writer. A very busy life, however, prevented Archbishop Hughes from writing a great work on any one subject.

63. Tell us something of Dr. Spalding.

Martin John Spalding, who died archbishop of Baltimore, in 1872, was a native of Kentucky; was educated at Rome, and was one of the most prominent prelates at the General Council of the Vatican.

64. Name his chief works.

History of the Protestant Reformation in Europe, the most comprehensive work on that subject in English literature; *Miscellanea*, a valuable collection of forty-six essays, lectures, and reviews on a wide variety of popular topics; and the *Evidences of Catholicity*, in a series of fourteen eloquent lectures. Dr. Spalding's style is more forcible than finished.*

* For a fuller account of the Catholic writers of this Republic, see the *Popular History of the Catholic Church in the U. S.*, Book V. chaps. i.-iii.

LESSON IX.

THREE REPRESENTATIVE ESSAYISTS AND LITERARY CRITICS.

65. What three American writers have prominently identified themselves with literary criticism?

Emerson, Lowell, and Whipple.

66. Who was Emerson?

Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was "no less distinguished for the rare beauty of his language than the unsoundness of his thoughts," was a native of Boston and a graduate of Harvard. He died, aged seventy-nine, in 1882.

67. Name his principal works.

Essays, Lectures, Representative Men, and a volume of *Poems*.

68. What cancels the value of Emerson's utterances on many subjects, notwithstanding the marked beauty of his style?

He was color-blind to the spiritual. He ignored the supernatural in man.

69. Who was Lowell?

James Russell Lowell, a noted poet, essayist, and critic, was a native of Massachusetts, and, like Emerson, a graduate of Harvard. He succeeded Longfellow in the chair of polite letters at his Alma Mater. For some years he held the position of American ambassador to England.

70. Which are his chief works?

Poems, My Study - Windows, and *Among My Books*. The last two works give Lowell a high rank as a literary critic.

71. What is your opinion of his style?

It is a strong, wordy, figurative style, deficient in clearness and simplicity.

72. Who was Whipple?

Edwin Percy Whipple was a native of Massachusetts, and a critic of eminence and popularity.

73. Mention his most important works.

Character and Characteristic Men and *The Literature of the Age of Elizabeth*. The latter is a really able work, marred here and there, however, by a tone of anti-Catholic prejudice. The style is clear, easy, and attractive.*

LESSON X.

ORESTES A. BROWNSON. DIED 1876.

74. Who was Dr. Brownson?

Orestes A. Brownson, the ablest reviewer and most distinguished philosopher that America has produced during the Nineteenth Century, was a native of Vermont. He owed little to schools, and was a self-taught man. After years of wandering from one Protestant sect to another, he became a Catholic in 1844, and thenceforth he devoted his pen with manly energy to the cause of the true faith.

75. What famous periodical did he conduct, almost single-handed, from 1844 till 1864?

Brownson's Quarterly Review, which ceased publication in 1864. He revived the *Review* in 1873, and

* The late *Henry Reed* was a genial critic, and *Brother Azarias* is a deep, sound thinker on literary matters.

for two years more he sustained it with a vigor and brilliancy unsurpassed at any previous date.

76. Name some of his chief works.

The Spirit-Rapper, The Convert, or Leaves from My Experience, Essays and Reviews, and The American Republic. Dr. Brownson's complete works, in eighteen volumes, are edited by his son, Henry M. Brownson.

77. Which is his masterpiece?

The American Republic, a work of extraordinary merit, in which the Constitution of the United States is explained in a manner never before attempted or approached.

78. What are some of the chief characteristics of Dr. Brownson's writings?

Boldness, originality, gigantic grasp of intellect, and a style of uncommon purity, vigor, and clearness.

"Brownson's ability as a writer and thinker has never been called in question."—*Hart*.

In Brownson's writings can be found "the terse logic of Tertulian, the polemic crash of St. Jerome, the sublime eloquence of Bossuet, all in combination or alternation, with many sweet strains of tenderness and playful flashes of humor. His style has a magnificent Doric beauty seldom surpassed—rarely even equalled."—*Catholic World*.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER II., BOOK IV.

1. The growth and material progress of this Republic during the nineteenth century have been marvellous.

2. Among the causes influencing American literature have been the race after wealth and the ma-

terial wants of life, anti-Catholic intolerance, and a slavish imitation of English literary models. Lowell hits the mark neatly when he says, "You steal Englishmen's books and think Englishmen's thoughts."

3. Irving's varied powers and exquisite style are best represented in *The Sketch-Book*.

4. Cooper was the first American novelist that gained a European reputation.

5. It is still safe to say that Longfellow is the most distinguished American poet, and holds the place of honor.

6. As inimitable narrators and writers of classical English, Parkman and Prescott stand at the head of American historians.

7. Lowell is, perhaps, our most able literary critic.

8. Bishop England was the founder of Catholic journalism in this Republic.

9. Archbishop Spalding's *History of the Protestant Reformation* is the most comprehensive work on that subject in English.

10. Dr. Brownson stands at the head of the American reviewers and philosophers of the Nineteenth Century.

11. *Bird's-eye view of the American authors and works of the nineteenth century:*

POETS.

Henry W. Longfellow, *Evangeline*.
William Cullen Bryant, *Thanatopsis*.
John Greenleaf Whittier, *Snow-Bound*.
Oliver Wendell Holmes, *The Last Leaf*.

PROSE-WRITERS.

Washington Irving, *The Sketch-Book*.
James Fenimore Cooper, *The Spy*.
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*.
Daniel Webster, *Speeches*.
Edward Everett, *Orations*.

Wendell Phillips, *Oration*.
 George Bancroft, *History of the United States*.
 Richard Hildreth, *History of the United States*.
 William H. Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico*.
 Francis Parkman, *The Jesuits in North America*.
 Bishop England, *Essays and Discourses*.
 Archbishop Hughes, *Letters and Discourses*.
 Archbishop Spalding, *History of the Reformation*.
 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Representative Men*.
 James Russell Lowell, *Among My Books*.
 Edwin Percy Whipple, *Literature of the Age of Elizabeth*.
 Orestes A. Brownson, *The American Republic*.

12. See *Short Dictionary* for David Ramsay, Charles B. Brown, Matthew Carey, Edgar Allan Poe, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Richard Henry Dana, Henry Reed, John G. Saxe, Horace Greeley, Edmund B. O'Callaghan, Jared Sparks, George Ticknor, John G. Shea, Thomas D. McGee, Father Thébaud, S.J., Father Hewitt, C.S.P., Richard H. Clarke, John Savage, Father A. J. Ryan, John R. G. Hassard, J. V. Huntington, George Henry Miles, Father Hecker, C.S.P., Brother Azarias, Rev. Donald X. McLeod, John Boyle O'Reilly, Rev. Bernard O'Reilly, Mrs. Sigourney, Mrs. Sadlier, Mrs. Stowe, J. G. Holland, Alexander H. Stephens, Thomas B. Aldrich, and others not noticed in the foregoing lesson.*

CHAPTER III.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

The twentieth century of English Literature will not deal with English, American, or Celtic writers.

* For a fuller account of American literature, the reader is referred to Duyckinck's *Cyclopædia of American Literature* and Tyler's *History of American Literature*.

All in the crucible of progress and the wonderful amalgamation of races in the United States will be English.

The traditions of all races and times will be woven into English prose and verse. The new ideas, the strength and beauty of this people will mould the literature of the future, as Fiona MacLeod has said: "This is what I meant when I said that if one would write English literature, one must write in English. . . . In a very true sense, therefore, there can be an Irish literature, a Scottish literature, an Anglo-Gælic literature, as well as an English literature; but in the wide sense it is all English literature—with, as may be, an Irish spirit and an Irish ideal, and Irish color, or with a Highland spirit, or with a Welsh spirit, and a Welsh ideal, and Welsh color—as Mr. Thomas Hardy's writings are English literature, with an English spirit, and an English ideal, and English color."

So we have characteristically Southern poetry, and Canadian poetry. We have a most successful American dramatist, William Dean Howells, an American poet of verse all gold, the Rev. John B. Tabb; with critics and essayists of England, such as Frederick Harrison and William H. Mallock; and we no longer think of their country, but of the language they have enriched. Bigotry no longer holds sway in the world of literature, and the beau-