

varied forms? It is clearly evident he could not, and it is due to the amount of real life that he threw into his writings that gives them at the present day their pre-eminence.

Again, it was by observing the effect of the force exerted by the boiling water in his aunt's tea kettle, that the boy Watt gave to the world that greatest of motor powers, steam, and we have but to look about us to see the grand results. The slow moving "Prairie Schooner" has given way to the swift "Iron Horse," the uncertain sailing vessel, driven back and forth by contrary winds, to the mighty ocean steamer, which moves majestically through the storm in proud contempt of both wind and wave. But aside from these grand and beneficial results which all are the common recipients of, there are many of a more personal nature. For example, if we listen to a lecture or discussion, we should observe among other things, the assertions made, the strength or weakness of the arguments brought to bear in their defence, the style of delivery and above all the effect produced on the hearers, for, it is in the ability to play upon the feelings of his auditors that the strength of the orator lies. How often have our minds been wearied and our patience exhausted by a lengthy narration of the sights and scenes of other lands by an imperfect observer, while on the other hand we have listened with breathless interest to one who has noticed whatever came within the range of his vision with an acuteness that at once attracts and instructs us. Thus it is if we would be continually storing up knowledge as we pass through life we must be accurate observers.

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CROMWELL.

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In presenting to you a character who has played so prominent a part in the world's drama, we shall need to show under what peculiar circumstances he entered. From the downfall of the Roman

empire there had been nothing in Europe in a settled condition.

The whole continent with the adjoining islands had been in continual struggle and commotion on account of the Crusades and Religious Revolution. This was the condition of affairs when England and all the other great nations of Europe were born.

All these changes and experiences had given the people larger views, and they were no longer willing to submit to their king, or the Pope at Rome. The people at that time felt the need of political and religious liberty, but absolute power held them in check. The political and religious forces seemed to join and work against monarchy. There were a great many other parties which were trying to gain the ascendancy and get at the head of the government. It was under these circumstances when England was vacillating from one side to the other, first a monarchy, then in favor of republicanism, then on the side of the church, that Cromwell appeared in England and began the great career that lay before him.

Oliver Cromwell was born April 25th, 1599. His father was a man of some influence, although not a man of much wealth. His mother was a woman of more intelligence and religious zeal. That love of truth and right which so characterized the crowning years of Cromwell's life must have been inherited from his mother.

A striking illustration of her devotion and love for humanity is given in her last words to her son. She said on her death bed: "The Lord cause his face to shine upon you and comfort you in all your adversities, and enable you to do great things for the glory of your most High God, and to be a relief unto His people."

Of the early life of Cromwell we shall say but little. He attended the Essex college at Cambridge for some time, but being called away by the death of his father, he never returned. However, it is said that he acquired such a knowledge of the