

so much pleasure and profit in reading the life of any noted man, if we can follow him through all the different periods of his life. For instance, Salmon P. Chase. We know what his early boyhood days were, how he spent his time at school, his college life, his apply for a clerkship from his uncle, only to receive fifty cents to buy a shovel with, his early struggles in life teaching school, his cheerfulness amid all his hardships, his turning an honest penny tending the ferry across the Ohio river. All are indices of the man who was one day to occupy an important place in our country's history. Of Pitt's early life very little is known. He went to Eton to school. How he spent his time, whether he took an active part in the manly games for which English boys are so much noted, whether he cared anything for boat-racing or hunting, I can not say.

When about seventeen he was sent to Oxford where he manifested considerable talent, but was most remarkable for his elocution. He was compelled to leave college on account of the gout, which had been a sore affliction to him all his life. He traveled in France in hopes of becoming cured of his diseases, but was called home at the death of his father, and took a commission in the army.

Before he was twenty one years old, he entered Parliament. He was without friends or fortune, and was but little known outside the family circle. His personal appearance was dignified and graceful. Sir Robert Walpole had been at the head of the affairs of State for some fourteen years. A man of much political strength, of great wealth, and experienced in the affairs of State. Pitt spoke with no little force and eloquence against the measures of the government, but Walpole could not brook such language from one so young, and taunted him of his youth, "his lofty periods," "his theatrical emotions," "his want of experience," etc. This tirade drew from Pitt a defence seldom surpassed for vigor or eloquence. Nearly

every one has seen the extract commencing, "The atrocious crime of being a young man—," so no farther citation is needful. He had a most wonderful command of language, and would roll out long stately periods without any effort or exertion. He had the gift of sarcasm in a marked degree. It is said of him that no other English statesman was feared as much as he, and that he was able by a single word to make a mortal enemy. But the most remarkable thing about him was his eloquence. One author says it was "awful." Another says it "sometimes resembled the thunder, sometimes the music of spheres." Again, Macaulay says, "His voice, even when it sank to a whisper, was heard to the remotest benches, and when he strained it to its full extent, the sound rose like the swell of an organ in a great cathedral, and shook the house with its peal." His actions and facial expressions were equal to those of Garrack, the great tragedian.

From the public life of any great man one cannot form a very positive opinion of his character. Their public acts may be guided by motives of selfishness or policy. Pitt stands so far above and so far removed from man in general that ordinary means of judging his character fail us. His high sense of honor and probity might have been assumed for political reasons, but from his letters to his son William, who afterwards became the second celebrated William Pitt, we get such a glimpse of his character as can be obtained from no other source. We there learn that his character was as lovely as his mind was accomplished. He was most amiable in his private relations, and all his domestic relations were happy. We find so rarely men of much power, in whom the passions are strong and the intellect great, combining the finer feelings and more delicate sensibilities.

One cannot read his letters without being surprised at their simplicity. Do we wonder that his son, from such counsels in politeness, manners and morals should be