

There is no investigation that tends to develop the critical acumen more than in examining studiously the works of literary men. The various shades of character there represented, demand that the reviewer be continually guarded that a true revelation of his motives may be ascertained. An author may think he can conceal his motives by sinking them deep in his heart. But the movement of his intellectual powers, directed by his inner nature will betray him in his first words. He is harsh, he is severe, or he is courteous; he bows to ambition and disdains friendship, he courts popularity for honor or flatters critics for policy. Every word that he writes glows with its intended lustre, and in spite of his efforts to conceal, the light discloses all to the reviewer; and his history becomes a monument to his fame or a warning to humanity.

To fathom all this in the mere writings of an author, requires that fine and noble standard of action that few possess. To separate and mould from the crude material of letters and words, the motives, the distinctive character and the symmetrical beauty of the whole image, is an endowment that crowns the person, and lifts his genius to dwell among the finer arts.

POLITICAL JOURNALISM.

In our day, much of what is written and said is aimed at the overthrow of what is thought to be superstition or prejudice. To a large extent, this is all very well; but in the means we adopt, do we not practice a conduct similar to that of the early Protestant reformers? The Catholic hurls at them the taunt that they were opposed to burning only when in danger of it themselves.

We refer especially to the influence of the political journal. Whether Republican, Green-back, or Democratic, the newspaper claims to be the advocate of truth and reform. Yet, for political effect,

it perverts and exaggerates the news, until it is nearly impossible to find the actual facts amid the rubbish that is heaped upon them.

The radical Republican seldom reads any other political news than that of the ferociously partisan journal which is with him a household necessity. If he does glance at a Democratic paper, it is with a cynical sneer, and a bias that precludes an impartial judgment as to the truth or soundness of its statements. He is constantly taking exceptions to the secular news in his religious newspaper. A very small matter will make him believe its editor a Democrat.

He seems to be persuaded that the democratic party is a band of thieves, liars and murderers. He denounces with intemperate zeal, the real or alleged Southern outrages that he hears of, and is convinced that the accession of a democratic president would prove the ruin of the country. The Democrat, through the influence of his party paper, holds quite as extreme views.

For these results, political journalism is in a great measure responsible. Superstition indeed dies hard!

The point we wish to make is the necessity of looking on both sides of any question, if we would form an unbiassed opinion. It is very doubtful if perfection exists in any political platform: yet it is quite likely that every one contains some measure of truth. The tendency of the political press, however, is to encourage that slavish devotion to party which will cause a man to lose sight, at times, of vital questions of government, and to vote for a rogue in his own party rather than for an honest candidate of the opposing one.

AN ENTERPRISE FOR THE "STUDENT."

With the financial basis of the *STUDENT* conspicuously unsound, there rests in the minds of the Board of Managers, great anxiety for its safety. And while they live