

ground on which they can meet and agree, and has led to many friendships and acts of forbearance and good-will between men who, had they been devoid of it, would have been bitter antagonists and personal enemies. There have been mutual respect and admiration from this cause between partizans on the opposite sides of very important questions. Swift and Addison still called each other friend, at a time when the point at issue between their respective sects was virtually the Protestant Succession ; and Scott and Jeffrey were on fair terms when Whigs and Tories were engaged in a death-grapple, with the Reform Bill looming in the distance. Doubtless, one of the causes of the often-remarked circumstance, that while fifth and sixth rate partizans are almost always bitter in the feelings with which they regard their opponents, and ungenerous towards them in their resentments, the leaders of parties are comparatively tolerant and humane, may be traced in part to a community of tastes and sentiments in this important department, and in part to that superior tone of thought and feeling which it is one of the great functions of literature to foster and develop. Many of our readers must have had opportunity of remarking how pleasant it is, after one has been shut up for months, mayhap, in some country solitude, or engaged in some over-busy scene, without intelligent companionship, to meet with an accomplished, well-read man, with whom to beat over all the literary topics, and settle the merits of the various schools and authors. It is not less pleasant to turn to one's books after some period of close engrossing engagement, and to clear off, among the masters of thought and language, all trace of the homely cares and narrow thinking which the season of hard labour had imperatively demanded. And it is so with peoples as certainly as with individuals. During the war so happily terminated, the nation was too busy and too much engrossed to listen patiently to disquisitions, however inge-