

This was the educational movement, notably in its higher claims and in the wider sense which the word education acquired in the writings of Lessing, Herder, Schiller, and Goethe. Lessing wrote a treatise on the education of mankind. Herder, in his writings as well as in his official position, occupied himself all through his life with the problem of education, which he conceived to consist in the widening, deepening, and spiritualising of human interest. Schiller published his celebrated letters "on the æsthetical education of man," and Goethe not only gave pointed and telling expression, in many passages of his writings and in his voluminous correspondence, to the aims and ideals which impelled his age, but also stood before the world as a living example of the highest form of liberal self-culture, striving continuously to subdue that element which "drags us all down," and which, in his own beautiful words, Schiller alone had cast into a shadowy distance: "the Vulgar."¹

¹ Indessen schritt sein Geist gewaltig
fort
In's Ewige des Wahren, Guten, Schö-
nen,
Und hinter ihm, in wesenlosem Scheine,
Lag, was uns Alle bändigt, das Ge-
meine.

The poem in which these beautiful lines are contained is, I believe, little known in this country though it is rich in poetical feeling and in sentences which have become proverbial, and contains some of those telling words which Goethe has introduced into the German language. It had its origin in a memorial service held on the 10th August 1805, after Schiller's death, and was subsequently twice repeated in 1810 and 1815, with some additional stanzas. It is termed

an "Epilogue to Schiller's Song of the Bell"; this being, in the opinion of many, one of the most characteristic of Schiller's poetic productions. As such it attaches itself immediately to the closing words of that "Song," according to which the first ring of the newly-cast bell should be the message of Peace. If the "Song of the Bell" gives one in a few pages a fairly complete idea of the peculiarity and many-sidedness of Schiller's poetical genius, the "Epilogue," on the other side, is quite as characteristic of Goethe's mind: one of the finest and most magnanimous tributes that ever a poet paid to the genius of his friend and rival.