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the peaceful angler continued to add to its completeness in his leisurely way for a quarter of a century.

Mr. Mauly has given in his "English Prose" a fine selection from "The Complete Angler," which is very interesting, especially that in which the hunter angler, and falconer discourse on the elements, that is the Air, Earth and Water in which they respectively ply their vocations.

William Bowles said that this work is the most singular of its kind; breathing the very spirit of contentment, of quiet and of unaffected philanthropy, and is interspersed with some beautiful relics of poetry, old songs and ballads.

"The Complete Angler," says William Hazlitt, "has an extreme simplicity, and an extreme interest, arising out of its very simplicity."

In the description of a fishing-tackle you perceive the piety and humanity of the author's mind. This is the best pastoral in the language, not excepting Pope's or Philips's.

William Ernest Henley says, "He had the purest and the most innocent of minds, he was the master of a style as bright, as sweet, as refreshing, and delightful as fine clean home spun some time in lavender."

James Russell Lowell says that there are two books which have a place in our literature by themselves and side by side—Walton's "Complete Angler," and White's "Natural History of Selborne," and they are books too, which have secured immortality without showing any tincture of imagination or of constructive faculty in the gift of one or the other of which that distinction commonly lies. They neither stimulate thought nor stir any passionate emotion.

Andrew Lang says, "Without ambition, save to be in the society of good men, Walton passed through turmoil, ever accompanied by content."

Pearle Tuck.

CAIUS CORNELIUS TACITUS.

The exact date of the birth of Tacitus is not known but it is supposed to be in 55 or 56 A. D. There is very little known of his family, but having occupied a prominent public office at an early age, would indicate that he was from a good family. Very little is known of his own life except what he has told us in his own writings. At an early age—some say in 77 and others 78 A. D.—he was married to the daughter

of Agricola. At one time Tacitus was an eminent pleader at the bar. Under Domitian in 88 he was appointed one of the commissioners to preside at the celebration of the secular games. In the same year he held office as praetor. The following year he seems to have left Rome and to have visited Germany where he got the information for his book "The Germania." Between the years 93 and 97 he was elected to the senate and saw the cruel murders under Nero. In 97 he was elected to the consulship to fill the vacancy of Virginius Rufus, at whose funeral Tacitus delivered an oration. In 99 he was appointed by the senate, together with Pliny, to conduct a prosecution against Marcus Porsens who had offended in political matters.

Tacitus had a wide-spread reputation during his life time, both from a political stand-point and as a writer of history.

The Emperor, Marcus Claudius Tacitus, who ruled in the third century, claimed to be a descendant from the historian and ordered that ten copies of his work should be published every year and placed in the public libraries.

The writings of Tacitus in chronological order are as following. The "Dialogue on orations," written about 75 A. D. on the decline of oratory in the time of the emperors. This was denied by many to be the work of Tacitus because of its style which imitated Cicero. The "Germania," published in 98, which treated of the situation, manners, and inhabitants of Germany, and contains but little of value from a historical point of view. The "Agricola" is a biographical sketch of his father-in-law, Julius Agricola, who was a distinguished governor of Britain. This is considered an admirable biography, because of its grace and dignified expression. At the time he wrote Agricola he was planning his next work, the "Historie," which records events that transpired in Rome from 68 to 97 A. D. Only four books and a fragment have been preserved, while there were originally fourteen. Some writers say that this history is from 69 to 96. Next are the annals, which is a kind of history containing events which happened from the death of Augustus to that of Nero. Originally there were 16 books but only nine have come down to us in full, though there are fragments of others.

Tacitus' style was fashioned somewhat with words and phrases of the classical writers and with the rhetorical teaching of the silver age, and yet there is a striking individuality about it. He is concise and to the point and in many places he is elegant. His brevity is very noticeable and leaves so much for the student to read between the lines or words that it takes careful study to get fully into his meaning.

The exact date of his death is not known. Judging from the time his writings ceased, he must have lived until the year 117 A. D.

J. Lee Johnson.

LIFE AND WORKS OF JOHN MILTON.

John Milton, the celebrated English poet, was born in London, December 8, 1608. His father was John Milton, a skillful musician and a composer of some fame.

Milton's boyhood was spent in the heart of London. He early acquired a taste for music from his father.

Mr. Thomas Young, a graduate from St. Andrew's University, began giving private lessons in school work when he was ten years of age. Later he was sent to St. Paul's School. There he studied Latin and Greek, and possibly French, Italian and Hebrew. From first he showed skill at his books and tireless application.

At the age of sixteen he entered Christ's College Cambridge, in the grade of pensioner, and graduated in 1629. He devoted himself to literature at Horton, near Windsor, for the next six years. His high character and his scholarly excellence won him friendship and renown, and he was often called upon to take part in college and university exercises. In 1629 he received the degree of B. A., and three years later that of M. A. In 1639, Oxford bestowed upon him an M. P. as an honorary degree. In 1638 he went to Italy, and there he met many friends. The Civil War called him back in 1639.

In 1632, Milton was described as being of middle height with a fair complexion, dark gray eyes, and auburn hair. His personal appearance, coupled with the purity of his character, had won him the rich name of "Lady of Christ's." Yet he was not of a soft yielding disposition, but he was very gentle.

In 1643 he married his first wife, Mary Powell, a girl of seventeen, daughter of an Oxfordshire squire, who was a debtor of Milton's father. She found life dull with him, and abandoned him a month later. They were divorced, but she returned to him after a few years, and he forgave her. She died in 1652. Of this marriage three daughters lived to womanhood.

After the execution of Charles I. Milton was made Latin secretary to the new commonwealth, March, 1649. By May, 1652, he had grown totally blind. In 1656 he married his second wife, Katherine Woodcock, who died in 1658, and in 1663 he married the third time, Elizabeth Minshall, whom he never saw but she was recommended by a friend, Dr. Paget. Up to the time of his third marriage, his domestic life had been rendered unhappy by the undutifulness of his daughters, who were impatient of the restraints and employments his blindness imposed upon them.

It was his greatest desire to construct something which the world would not willingly let die.

He wrote prose as well as poetry. In style the difficulties of his prose—the heaviness of its logic, the clumsiness of its discussion, the involution of its sentences, have almost sealed it to common readers; but if it lacks simplicity and perspicuity, it has what is considered the eloquence in wealth of imagery, sublimity of diction.

His political manner with more of richness and inversion is essentially the same. Ample measured and organ like, not impulsive and abrupt, but solid and straight, as one who writes from a superb self-command.

His rank as a poet was little regarded by his contemporaries. The fame of a great man needs time to give it due perspective. He was esteemed and feared, however, as a learned and powerful disputant.

By the purity of his sentiments, and the sustained fulness, he holds affinity with Spenser. By his theme and majesty, with Dante, who is fervid and rapt; his

learning with Bacon, who is more comprehensive, by his inspiration with Shakespeare, who is free and more varied; but in sublimity he excels them all, even Homer.

As for his character, he was born for great service and great ideas. His amusements consisted in gardening, in exercise with the sword, and in playing on the organ.

Music he insisted, should form part of a generous education. His ear for it was accurate; and his voice, it is said, was sweet and harmonious.

The most devout man of his time, he frequented no place of worship. To the manner and spirit of his age, as well as to his success, is due his conception of female excellence and the relative position of the sexes. Milton's heart lived in a sublime solitude.

His works will never have the influence of those of Shakespeare, Bunyan, Burns, or even Pope and Cowper.

During his last years his mind was remarkably active.

Milton, the man, impresses us perhaps as much as Milton the poet.

In 1674, Milton's gout grew worse, and on the eighth of November he died, "with so little pain that the time of his expiring was not perceived by those in the room."

He was buried beside his father in the parish church of St. Giles, Cripplegate.

Some of his works are "Paradise Lost" (1667) "Paradise Regained," (1671, "Comus," "Lycidas," "Allegro," "St. Penseroso," "Arcades," "Song on a May Morning," "Sonnet on a Nightingale," "At a Solemn Music," and in 1634 the two poems "On Time" and "Upon the Circumcision."

In 1669 appeared his history of "Britain to the Norman Conquest."

Janie Lee Beale.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

Sir Thomas Browne, an English physician and author, was born in London on the 19th of October, 1605. He was educated at Winchester School, and afterwards at Broadgate Hall, Pembroke College, Oxford, where he graduated, B. A., in January, 1626. He took the further degree of M. A. in 1629, studied Medicine, and practiced for some time in Oxfordshire. Between 1630 and 1633 he left England, traveled through Ireland, France, and Italy, and on his way home received the degree of M. D. at the University of Leyden.

He returned to London in 1634, and two years later, after a short residence

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