

couragement at home. To be sure much that is being written is intrinsically worthless, but the ambition and multiplied effort to win literary fame are producing some meritorious works. Southern cities are rapidly becoming literary centers; publishing houses are paying good dividends, and literary genius is appreciated and largely sustained by Southern readers. One thing is lacking. The schools, public and private, are not doing their duty in teaching the history and worth of our literature. Most of our literature still comes from the North, and is unjust to the South in many respects.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, which is regarded everywhere as high authority, has this to say of us (Vol. I, page 719): "The attractive culture of the South has been limited in extent and degree. The hothouse fruit of wealth and leisure, it has never struck its roots deeply into native soil.

"Since the Revolution days, when Virginia was the nurse of statesmen, the few thinkers of America born south of Mason and Dixon's line, outnumbered by those belonging to the single State of Massachusetts, have commonly emigrated to New York or Boston in search of a university training. In the world of letters, at least, the Southern States have shown by reflected light; nor is it too much to say that mainly by their connection with the North the Carolinas have been saved from sinking to the level of Mexico or the Antilles."

Think of the South—that section which, for the first sixty-four years of our national life, furnished the president for fifty-two years, most of the cabinet officers, and the chief justice from 1801 to 1890—classed as a semi-barbarous people, saved only by Northern civilization! And we make so few protests against these misrepresenta-

tions that the outside world has come to believe and repeat them, to our great injury. The boys and girls of the South should be taught the true history of the South. They should become familiar with the literature of the South, with its songs, its civilization, both new and old, its patriotism, its sufferings during and subsequent to the civil war, and its rapid recuperation since. Instead of permitting them to believe that their forefathers, "the Old South," were either imbeciles or traitors, let us teach them to love and to hold sacred the history, valor, patriotism and conscience of the Old South.

Henry Grady says, "The first important railroad operated in America traversed Carolina. The first steamer that crossed the ocean cleared from Savannah. The first college established for girls was opened in Georgia. No naturalist has surpassed Audobon; no geographer equaled Maury; and Sims and McDonald led the world of surgery in their respective lines. It was Crawford Long, of Georgia, who gave to the world the priceless blessing of anaesthesia."

Let me repeat that we cannot afford to have our histories, encyclopedias, and data furnished by Northern writers and publishers. They neglect us, and I do not blame them much. It is our duty to see to it that our history and literature are properly placed before the world. Let me tell you what I mean by saying they neglect us. The *Columbian Encyclopedia*, consisting of thirty-two volumes, gives more space to the biography of John Brown, the abolitionist, running his pedigree back to Peter Brown, who came over in the *Mayflower*, than to Jefferson Davis, the soldier, statesman and president. Another standard encyclopedia gives six lines on General Kirby Smith, the teacher, the soldier and patriot.