

# Highland Park News.

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## JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

To our mind Prof. Rolfe's lecture Monday evening, on Lowell was the strongest one yet delivered, and we believe will prove to be the ablest one of the lot. With Hawthorne our greatest literary genius, Lowell was our greatest literary man: emphasize the "man." As Prof. Rolfe so forcibly stated, he was an all-around man, first in scholarship, in literary humor, intellectual acumen, foresight, moral penetration, patriotism, culture, diplomacy, and citizenship. His many sidedness and his superiority in all, was one of the best and strongest features of the lecture.

Then the picture or series of pictures, of his home, his antecedents, his deep-rootedness in the old and best New England soil, the flavor it gave to all his keen wit and sparkling humor, his dialect poems, his shrewd and broad commonsense view of things, as well as his high moral tone and the rare purity, evenness and beauty of his life, all these, and more were admirably stated.

But what most deeply impressed us was Prof. Rolfe's delineation of Lowell's growth first up to greatness and then to its rounded completeness. We never felt the fragmentariness of his work, as he stated it, it always seemed to us so grand and great, that minor defects were unnoticed. In our early academic days the first number of the Atlantic Monthly came to our desk, the only copy in the town, and we devoured it,—after every fellow student was in bed or off on a lark,—all but Emerson's awful poem. Lowell was its editor, he set the pace and the standard, and maintained it. It was a literary phenomenon, and the edu-

cated world at home and abroad was on the qui vive with every issue, for every article was unsigned and the publishers' blue pencil was held well in check. Then came those charming essays on Chaucer, Spenser, etc, in the stately North America till it fell from its ancient stateliness to a low material commercialism.

Then Lowell's patriotic and semi-political papers and addresses, some of the finest in our language; finest not only in style, but in the moral loftiness of their patriotism; in the transparent integrity of their purpose, and in the statesmanlike breadth of their grasp. Then his great poems, briefly sketched, and last, and in some respect, the best of all, his unrivalled letters.

Such a lecture as that is a part of a liberal education in its powerful stimulus and guiding thought. We are glad to have lived in Lowell's day and to have read his great works as they came from his pen.

## RECTOR WOLCOTT'S SERMON,

It is a most admirable plan that unites all our Protestant congregations in a Thanksgiving church service, but it is not so admirable for the Baptists or Presbyterians or Episcopalians to calculate the other folks will fill the house, and so they stay at home. We expect the preacher to "lay himself out," for the occasion; he has a right to expect us to lay ourselves out to attend.

Taking the general theme of Thanksgiving for his discourse, Mr. Wolcott devoted himself chiefly to the late war; the features and results of which call for special gratitude from the American people.

First is our self revelation; that is

the occasion of the war, sympathy for suffering Cuba: the response to the call for troops was a proof of a universal and lofty patriotism and the purpose of the war, to liberate Cuba, showed our noble national ideals in their best light. All these revealed the honesty, pure patriotism and national integrity most clearly. The American people are honest the great overwhelming masses of them are thus honest and patriotic.

Second is the mighty impulse given to moral unity of the Anglo Saxon English speaking races and nations. Wide seas may roll between us, but we who speak the tongue of Shakespeare and Milton, and read our Bibles in King James version, are one for the weal of the world.

Third, God's hand is so markedly in the war lifting us as a people out of century-old ruts, and our old commonplaceness into new, broad and highly responsible positions of world wide relations and duties that a new unlooked for era of vast influence for good is open before us, with problems for the highest Christian statesmanship. It is God's work, for he has a grand purpose in hand for our nation. Hence the new unity of our own people, of the English speaking peoples and the divine call to a higher, broader and nobler citizenship.

It was a discourse conceived on broad lines, worked out with care, of rare insight, comprehensive in its scope, pervaded by a healthy optimistic spirit. No land hunger, no war for conquest, no "remember the Maine" spirit of revenge, but a Christian loyalty to follow where God by his providences unmistakably leads.