

seen *primary strata*, consisting of scientific, art and mathematical books ; next above lie the *secondary*, comprising histories and biographies ; then, still higher up, stretch the *tertiary*, including essays, criticisms and metaphysics ; and, over all, rest the *quaternary*, with its drift of spars, walking glaciers, interstratifications, rare and curious fossils, monstrous skeletons, and superimposing alluvium of verdure, fertility and floral beauty, which we all denominate *poetry*. Closing the door shutting in this literary world glimpse, we spy, in a neighboring corner, the sable-cased guitar or violin. Take it forth ; visit its amber and silvery cords with bow or fingers, and it will sing you of Helicon, or Feasts of the Gods, or, if its strains be less heavenly, 'twill exhilarate or sadden, pique or soothe, the heart by its alternate witchery and pathos. Looking around the room, how heavy seem the walls with pendant art-fruits ! Portrait, landscape, engraving and medallion confront you at every angle, speaking good words both for artist and dilettante ; whilst, on mantelpiece and in corbel, is tastily disposed statuette, bust and cunningly fashioned ornaments. Furniture, wall-paper and carpet appear to be kinfolk, or else intimate friends, so mutually respective are they. Over all this scene, how domestically and genially glow the commingling lights and shadows of fire and lamp ! Here let us tarry awhile, the entertained of philosopher, scholar, tourist, romancer, poet and muse ! Wag on, and jostle, O World ! what heed we ? the elements within are felicitously attempered. The king's throne, aye, and the President's chair, are secure from our ambition, while the armed *curulis* of home is void of an occupant.

Whether or not this be a popular *ideal* of home, the need for centering there the strongest attractions can not be questioned. It should, in reality, be to every one the kindest and most frequented of resorts.

Mr. H—— buys a lot on the hillside, and builds a house at the upper end of it. The house is decent enough, but the lot ! precipitous, craggy ; prolific in yellow clay, limestone and thistle-patches. “What a grand quarry that might