Johnson's literary labors in a more striking light, it should be mentioned that he possessed none of the advantages of early education and culture. At intervals he attended schools (not of a high order) in and near London, before he was fourteen years of age, and this was all the school education he ever received. All else he achieved for himself. His thoughts and opinions, and his mode of expressing them were his own. No man was ever more strictly original. If he expressed the views of other minds he did it ignorantly. His pen was never idle. His correspondence was very extensive, and he wrote frequently for newspapers and periodicals; but his contributions were by no means a part of the common light literature of the day. They were the result of study and deep reflection; and very many of them contained lessons of wisdom and gems of beauty.

Many years ago he delivered here, a series of lectures to young men; and published them in a small volume. Young men may look long and far before finding pleasanter and wiser instruction than is contained in that little book.

Mr. Johnson wrote much upon the subject of politics, though he was never a partisan or a politician. He said he "was never a disciple of any party, and hence never wrote for victory but for the elicitation of truth." He was decidedly demonstrative in his sentiments and opinions, but they were always the result of the study and investigation of general principles.

He was a delegate to the Baltimore Convention, in 1835, which nominated Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency; and in the following fall was offered the nomination of Member of Congress, which he declined.

In 1837 he published an octavo volume of 400 pages, entitled "A Guide to a Right Understanding of our American Union; or Political, Economical and Literary Miscellaneous, Dedicated to the Young Men of America." This was chiefly a collection and reprint of papers which he had written for various periodicals. They were arranged in chapters, and related to "The Negro Question and Territorial Government;" "The Nature of our Confederacy;" "The Acquisition of New Territory;" "The Relative Merits of Existing Parties;" "A United States Bank;" "State Constitutions;" "Sumptuary Legislation;" "Public Improvements;" and ten papers upon miscellaneous subjects. These (being only a part, and not the greater part of Mr. Johnson's published literary productions,) are mentioned as further evidence of his high and uncommon intellectual character. That a man thrown early into the active, and what with most men would necessarily be the absorbing business of life, should accomplish so much in literature, and accomplish it so well, and especially as it was accomplished without preparatory culture, is extraordinary, and indeed wonderful.

Mr. Johnson never replied to any attacks or criticisms upon his writings. He shrank from all personal controversy. If possible, he avoided it in relation to all matters, if avoidance was consistent with the maintenance of right and duty. He was diffident and sensitive in a degree painful to himself. He deeply regretted his extreme reticence of character, and his invincible repugnance to general social intercourse, and especially lamented his fixed habit of relying upon his own opinions without consulting the opinions of others. This prevented him from working harmoniously with other men.

His solitary manners and habits caused him to be misunderstood in many things. He was aware that he had the reputation of being mainly devoted to making money. He said if that had been his leading object, he should have chosen another profession and pursued a different course. He wanted money "for independence, to obtain time to write, and for the comfort of himself and family." He never speculated, and, as he said, "never after early life, put forth efforts to make money." He took "care of his money, and it made itself." He left a large fortune, but it was the result of vigilant care, gradual accumulation and wise investment. The temptations of wealth never withdrew Mr. Johnson for a moment from the paths of industry, integrity and morality. If there can be degrees of honesty, he possessed it in the very highest degree. He was scrupulously and undeviatingly honest in all that he did and said, and in all his words and actions never varied a line from the truth. His precision and exactness of statement were remarkable. It gave him great pain if he supposed that any words of his misled or made a false impression. He carefully avoided exaggeration. His manner of life was pure and exemplary. He was temperate always, even among the temptations of youth—a teetotaller before teetotalism was heard of.

As a son, husband and father, he was devotedly kind and affectionate. His tender and assiduous care of his father and