*Sir, calling. For must it be forgotten that our writers of this day have to go beyond their own country for themes, to employ their pens, for ours is yet in its infancy and the souls of its career so far are own told.

Next to history, biography should perhaps be ranked as most important; and here again we have a work that is the first of its kind. We are sorry to say that we have seen in a few libraries, the "Life of Columbus," and yet it is a book which we readers can commence without perusing its entire contents, and no one can travel on this without being afforded much amusement and solid instruction. Whether we consider the dignity and importance of the subject; the great and momentous events of which it treats; the eloquence and beauty of the composition, or the moral grandeur of the sentiments, no just critic can fail to bow to the worth of its unequalled commendation. It has another merit — perhaps not its best — it is from the pen of the good and immortal Irving. This alone would give a high tone to the literature of any country, and he will stand out, to the eyes of posterity, as the most prominent land-mark of his age. We shall attempt nothing in praise of Irving; who can do him justice! The "Tale of Feva" tells us,

"If jets refined gold, to paint the lily,
To throw a perfume on the violet,
To smooth the ice, or add another hue
With the rainbow, or with tape - light
To seek the beautiful eye of heaven to garnish
A wasteful and ridiculous excess" and

wasteful and ridiculous indeed it be for us to pronounce a just
appreciation hence, for his fame is now known wherever books are read; his thoughts will continue to fascinate and instruct, while mean has a sound to appreciate and a heart to feel, whatever is

It may not be uninteresting to know, that Baron Von Humboldt, the most remarkable man of his age, before a society in Germany, pronounced Russell greatest of all historians.