

THE LORELEI.

[Translated from Heine.]

Whate'er it may mean I know not,
And yet I am sad at heart;
A legend of the olden time
Will ne'er from my thoughts depart.

The air is cool and it darkles,
And calmly flows the Rhine;
The peak of the mountain sparkles,
The even sun doth shine.

Up there a maiden sitteth,
And she is magic fair;
Her golden jewels dazzle,
She combs her golden hair.

With golden comb she combs it,
And she sings a song the while,
That's weirdly sweet and powerful,
And strangely it doth beguile.

The boatman in his tiny boat
Is wildly thrilled with love;
The jagged rocks he sees not,
But looks on the height above.

Boat and boatman now, I ween,
'Neath the waves have gone;
The Lorelei has done it
With her sweet beguiling song.

Breslau.

A. A. MACDONALD.

CLARK UNIVERSITY.

THE VARSITY having decided to present to its readers a series of articles on American Universities, and University life, it is a great pleasure to me to contribute a few facts concerning Clark University.

This University, situated in the busy city of Worcester—the heart of the commonwealth—owes its existence to the liberality and the broadly-conceived plans of a distinguished citizen of Worcester, Jonas G. Clark. More than twenty years ago did Mr. Clark entertain the idea of endowing a college devoted to the pursuit of higher and special studies. To Mr. Clark increase of fortune meant a growth of plan, and after devoting eight years to the study of the objects, methods, and equipments of the most distinguished American and European universities, he gave his purpose to the world. A charter was obtained in 1887, and in 1888, Dr. Stanley Hall, of Johns Hopkins University, was called to the Presidency. Dr. Hall gave a year to the study of the educational ideals and methods of Europe, and in October, 1889, Clark University was opened to students.

Enough has been said to indicate that the University thus instituted has before it high aims—that it is not a mere auction room where the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be purchased—and “cheap.” The fixed resolve of the founder and those associated with him is, that Clark must be a university devoted to higher studies and original investigation and research. Its professors and lecturers must be men who have distinguished themselves in their special lines of study, men who, workers themselves, can fill their students with high desires and high hopes. The only students admitted are those whose university qualifications are such as to ensure a reasonable measure of success in the work of the college, so that Clark is purely a post graduate university. To such students every facility for work is afforded; it is no fiction to say that the resources of the University are at their command.

Up to the present, work has been carried on in only five lines. (1) Mathematics; (2) Physics; (3) Chemistry;

(4) Biology; (5) Psychology. The professors at the head of those departments are, Dr. Story, Dr. Michelson, Dr. Nef, Dr. Whitman, Dr. Hall, each of whom, as is sufficiently known, has won a high place in his special work. In each department several courses of study are followed. For example “Psychology” includes courses in Neurology, Experimental Psychology, Anthropology, Education, Philosophy, and Practical Ethics (Criminology). Along with each professor are several associate professors and lecturers: thus in the department of mathematics associated with Dr. Story are, Dr. Bolza, Dr. White, Dr. Taber, and M. de Perott. Work will be begun in other courses as the demand for it arises, so that before long, it is hoped, the name “university” will have its justification. The methods are, I understand, those followed in the best German universities. Lectures are given by the professors and instructors just as in Toronto University. Along with each course of lectures a great deal of directed reading is done. References to important texts, journals and memoirs are expected to be patiently and honestly worked up. The value of this last can hardly be estimated. The reading of a paper communicated to some learned body, by some original thinker, is more than the mere reading of a paper, or the mere learning of a fact—it is an inspiration. It need scarcely be said that the Seminar is an important feature in the methods of instruction, but into a sketch of its work there is no need to enter; it would be but doing poorly what has often been done so well, and, besides, the Seminar is now well known to all students in Toronto. There are no examinations to confine the work of the term to that narrow coffin—the prescribed text. The Doctor's degree is awarded after three years' study on the favourable report of the professors; in addition the candidate must submit a “thesis on some approved subject to which it must be an original contribution of value.” This description of the methods of Clark would be far from complete if it were not said that each student is expected to associate himself closely with the professors in his department, and seek their advice and direction.

The library is not large—only about 10,000 volumes—yet additions to it are being rapidly made. It is very select, well arranged, and accessible. It is divided into sections corresponding to the courses of study, and an orderly and reliable catalogue gives definite information as to the book sought. To give an idea of the care taken in the selection of books, it may not be out of place to say that in the section of mathematics, in addition to the standard English, French and German texts for the courses of study, there are complete sets of the collected works of the most famous mathematicians, and also of all the leading mathematical journals, so that, if one chooses, one can see just how any principle has been developed. No doubt, other departments are quite as well equipped. Besides, the leading current magazines—special and general—are on the library tables. Now, what about getting the books? A Toronto student on coming to Clark walked guilelessly into the library, and, in an innocence born of a limited acquaintance with a certain library, asked, what were the library restrictions. To his great surprise, he was assured by the obliging librarian that there were none, and that it was felt to be of greater importance that the book should be read, than that they should look nice on a shelf. The library is supplemented—if one dare use that word in this case—by the Worcester Free Public Library (75,000 volumes) and the library of the Antiquarian Society (85,000 volumes) and of the highest value to the anthropologist). The regulations of the Public Library are very liberal, six books being allowed at the same time to one person, and for a period of two weeks; besides a person of average intelligence can learn in a short time how to apply for a book.

Of University life—as ordinarily understood—there is none at Clark. The number of students is small—too small to expect the club of the regular American College.