

same time we read elsewhere that Judge Wells of Springfield held a "*Fireside Companion*" agent in \$500 for trial on complaint of distributing to minors "literature devoted chiefly to the publication of stories and pictures of crime"; The *Fireside Companion* is one of George Munro's questionable publications. Questionable! Yes, we always like to put things mildly. We have never read "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" but we know its general plot. How would "Mr. Munro and Mr. Ornum" do for the title of a similar story! After all there is a nice sense of justice in all this. Who could be so unreasonable as to find fault with the generous fellow who gives one a plaster after cutting his head?

A good many fortunes are made by creating and pandering to a depraved literary taste. What nicer adjustment could be made than to devote a portion of them to the founding of chairs of literature and Ethics! Children, aye, and adults, may revel in pictures of crime, but students acquire a refined taste for polite literature and learn the principles of Ethics. Mother's hearts may throb with anguish but the hearts of students throb with gratitude; a cursed work the mothers say but a noble work here say the students. No matter; we are firm believers in the "survival of the fittest."



A DOUBT AND ITS SOLUTION.

Occasionally when reading in some of our exchanges of the restraints to which it is necessary to subject the Freshman, we have been assailed by a horrible doubt. Vainly we have tried to shake it off until at last we are compelled to ask for aid in ridding ourselves of the burden. The doubt exhibited in all its black deformity is this: Do students in their first year at College really possess such a combination of disagreeable qualities as renders them

obnoxious to all around them! Do they really believe that it devolves upon them to reform the college by first reducing the established order of things to a state of chaos and then erecting a new edifice upon ruins! Is it true that their defiance of law is so bold and their breaches of decorum so flagrant that peaceably disposed students are obliged to resort to the methods of the "Vigilantes!" In short, is it an undisputed fact that the every-day conduct of those creatures is such as to justify the use of the term "fresh" to signify all that is most unendurable in man! Gladly would we answer all these questions in the affirmative, but the upas-tree if scepticism has fixed its roots in our mind and we cannot. Some demon whispers in our ear, "all this talk of Freshman audacity is buncombe, you know it is. Ottawa freshmen are not fresh, you know they're not; and freshmen are the same beings everywhere, you know they are." Avaunt, thou demon, and tempt us no more! No, we will not believe that it is a fiction, all this we have been reading of the evil-doings of the ungoodly freshman. Were we to do so what horrible consequences would have to be admitted. We would be compelled to believe that this fiction was invented by senior students for a very sinister purpose, viz., that they might have an excuse for exercising their bullying propensities for gratifying low animal instinct which seeks to satisfy itself by making weaker ones suffer. Our conclusion supposes something impossible, therefore our premises must be wrong and the freshmen must be fully as black as they are painted. Indeed when we begin to particularize their offences as they are set forth in many an indictment, we see such is really the case. They will persist in carrying canes (not loaded however), and history records with horror that once upon a time a freshman of a Canadian university shook his cane at a senior. They sometimes try to cultivate