

nineteenth century and its Protestant Christianity.

In St. Martin's Seminary we have not yet attained perfection, but some substantial progress has been made along the lines indicated. The buildings were planned for the accommodation of both sexes, and so planned that the fullest separation of the departments as well as their free association can be secured. Many of the defects of separate buildings, more or less facing each other, are overcome, and yet the complete isolation of the departments is secured as much as by separate buildings. The centre building being the scholastic one, as well as containing the dining-room, public rooms, and Principal's residence, makes it easy to bring both sides of the house together on all desirable occasions without exposure to inclement weather. The commingling thus provided for has shown its refining influence and educative effect in many ways, and has justified the claim of the promoters of this school, that it looks well after the home life, and promotes it in a larger degree than could be possible under the old system.

With all modesty we ask the question, is it not time that the old run-and-cloister methods of education be reconsidered, and a more thorough inquiry be instituted as to the best methods to promote a full, round about education of our young people, not only as to their minds, but also as to their physical, moral, social, and civil life, with all their inter-relations and completest development.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

PERHAPS, judging from an intellectual standpoint, there is a no more important epoch in the annals of Great Britain than that of the fourteenth century. Standing as we do in the present age upon the summit of the grandest of literary heights, and from our promontory viewing the surrounding landscape, we behold a scenery so diversely magnificent that we are lost in bewilderment and admiration. And when an attempt is made to thread out the path by which we have attained our present position, we find we have reached a summit whose height amazes us.

After the first emotions of rapture have subsided sufficiently to enable us to collect our scattered thoughts, inquiry is made of the guide as to the most interesting historical points, for we know full well that those crags and precipices have been the scene of many conflicts.

He says, pointing to a beautiful height, surrounded by many smaller and less conspicuous ones, "That is called the Chaucerian Mount, from him who, in the fourteenth century, scaled its lofty and difficult cliffs."

And to thoroughly appreciate his laborious task it is

necessary that you be acquainted somewhat with his biography

This man, the most eminent of the age in which he lived, was born, it is supposed, about the year 1340. From the record of his life, both social and political, and the distinguished positions of trust and responsibility which he filled, it is but a fair conclusion that he was a man of high and aristocratic parentage. But as is often said, whatever his social position, he had a poet's soul, he was a lover of nature and humanity.

He no doubt knew those of his countrymen who had won for themselves fame in other lands. But he, and only he, saw the possibility of securing renown by grappling with the difficulties of his own land, and to the attainment of this worthy end he devoted his life's energy.

During his early life he was a page to King Edward III., and in 1370 was sent abroad as a royal envoy. About two years after he went to Genoa to negotiate for ships. While there he made the acquaintance of Petrarch, the most noted man of letters in Europe. That these associations were of incalculable benefit to him is shown in his subsequent poems.

Chaucer, in 1386, was elected to represent the County of Kent; but alas! this apparent honor proved, as is frequently the case, to be a misfortune in disguise. This political campaign, and the struggle which ensued, were the direct agents which caused him to forfeit all those lucrative positions, which he had long and worthily filled.

It is supposed that during his latter days he labored under financial embarrassment, and that before his death he had become comparatively dependent. This took place at Westminster, on the 25th of October, 1400. He was the first poet buried in Westminster Abbey.

After completing this short sketch, our guide resumes his narrative. It can be told in a few words.

Chaucer, as has been already stated, was a lover of human nature, consequently he studied the character, nature, and language of the people, with whom he was to succeed in realizing the object of his ambition, must necessarily come in contact.

As our good friend expressed it, Chaucer, in climbing those literary steepes, sought out paths previously unknown. Two of these, the Chivalric and Italian, though having many bye-roads, were the first highways that enabled him, after years of patient toil, to arrive at those heights of excellency which shall ever distinguish him, and which has secured for him the approbation of nations. His is a name that has been and shall be heralded down the vista of coming years