

passengers average nearly 2,000 per day throughout the year. It should not be forgotten that the Piræus boasts of an excellent bathing establishment which is very flourishing, and, in the coming season, there will be a good French dramatic company for the amusement of the visitors.

The country crossed on the road from the Piræus to Athens is the renowned plains of Attica. These are now cultivated in every part, watered by the classical streams of the Illisus and Cephissus, and produce vast quantities of oil and of wine, so good that, when not flavored by resin (more appreciated by Greeks than by strangers), it is as delicious as any table wine I have drank. It is slightly sweet, and may not please all tastes, but, at any rate, it is sound, free from acidity, and of sufficient body to prevent any cause of complaint. It has also the advantage of being cheap. Oranges, figs, peaches, and other fruit, besides much garden produce, are obtained for the use of the city; but the early vegetables in the Athens market are procured from Syra, one of Cyclades.

A Curious Piece of Composition.

The following rather curious piece of composition was recently placed upon the blackboard at a teachers' institute in Vermont and a prize of a Webster's Dictionary offered to any person who could read it and pronounce every word correctly. The book was not carried off, however, as twelve was the lowest number of mistakes in pronunciation made: "A sacrilegious son of Belial, who suffered from bronchitis, having exhausted his finances, in order to make good the deficit, resolved to ally himself to a comely, lenient and docile young lady of the Malay or Caucasian race. He accordingly purchased a calliope and coral necklace of a chameleon hue, and securing a suit of rooms at a principal hotel, he engaged the head waiter as his coadjutor. He then despatched a letter of the most unexceptional caligraphy extant, inviting the young lady to a matinee. She revolted at the idea, refused to consider herself sacrificable to his desires, and sent a polite note of refusal, on receiving which he procured a carbine and a bowie knife, said that he would not now forge fetters hymeneal with the queen, went to an isolated spot, severed his jugular vein and discharged the contents of his carbine into his abdomen. The debris were removed by the coroner." The

mistakes in pronunciation were made on the following words: Sacrilegious, Belial, bronchitis, exhausted, finances, deficit, comely, lenient, docile, Malay, calliope, chameleon, suit, coadjutor, caligraphy, matinee, sacrificable, carbine, hymeneal, isolated, jugular, and debris.

PUNCTUATION.—The following passage forcibly illustrates the necessity of punctuation. It can be read in two ways, making a very bad or a very good man, according to the manner in which it is punctuated:— "He is an old and experienced man in vice and wickedness he is never found in opposing the works of iniquity he takes delight in the downfall of his neighbors he never rejoices in the prosperity of any of his fellow creatures he is always ready to assist in destroying the peace of society he takes no pleasures in serving the Lord he is uncommonly diligent in sowing discord among his friends and acquaintances he takes no pride in laboring to promote the cause of Christianity he has not been negligent in endeavoring to stigmatize all public teachers he makes no effort to subdue his evil passions he strives hard to build up Satan's kingdom he lends no aid to the support of the Gospel among the heathens he contributes largely to all that is evil he pays no attention to good advice he pays great heed to the devil he will never go to heaven he must go where he will receive the just recompense for his deeds."

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Mothers! Mothers!! Mothers!!!

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