

cease, for the profession is evidently no longer useful even as a stepping-stone. However, we do not sympathize with the teachers. If they receive low salaries it is their own fault. They continually violate, at least in part, one of the most important precepts laid down in the Normal and Model Schools, "Never underbid or undermine a fellow-teacher," and now they are but reaping the fruits of their action.

Professor David Swing, a well-known Protestant divine of Chicago, says of Pope Leo XIII: "Minds of all religious beliefs cannot but look this day with admiration upon the form of this venerable man as he stands exalted by office, by literature, by kindness, by piety, and then by the pathos of eighty-three years.

Mamie Dickens, a daughter of Charles Dickens, writing in the *Ladies' Home Journal* under the heading, "My Father as I Recall Him," gives the following description of Rochester, as the last effort of the famous novelist: "Brilliant morning shines on the old city. Its antiquities and ruins are surpassingly beautiful with the lusty ivy gleaming in the sun, and the rich trees waving in the balmy air. Changes of glorious light from moving boughs, 'songs of birds, scents from gardens, woods and fields, or rather, from the one great garden of the whole cultivated island in its yielding time, penetrate into the cathedral, subdue its earthly odor, and preach the Resurrection and the Life."

From a paper on composition, read at the teachers' convention held in Walkerton, Ont., by the School Sisters de Notre Dame, we quote the following: "Frequent practice in composition-writing is of the utmost importance. Some teachers are of the opinion that practice in writing, even without correction, will work wonders. What, then, may be said of the good resulting from frequent practice, accompanied by careful reading and criticism." It is gratifying to know that the sisters are making an effort to teach composition practically. So far, this subject has been almost entirely ignored, at least in our Ontario public schools, or if any attention is given to it, little or no progress is made. The reason of this is not far to seek. The

teachers themselves often have only a theoretical knowledge of their language, and their first aim is to impart such a knowledge to their pupils. Consequently the whole time allotted to composition is devoted to correcting false syntax, changing compound sentences to complex sentences, and other similar exercises, while no time is given to practical work. Teachers should learn once for all that the only way of becoming good writers is to write. The sisters of Notre Dame seem to have recognized this fact and are acting accordingly.

Lillian Bridgart, in Kate Field's Washington, speaking of letter-writing, says: Few people know what a delight and an education correspondence may become. The reason is that few people know how to "answer letters." The chief cause of this condition of things is carelessness. A person receives a letter and is either too busy to read it when answering, or too lazy to take the trouble. If these slipshod letter-writers could see the effect of their careless answers, they would rarely drop a letter in the box. A careless answer to a friendly letter is not only rude but unkind—sometimes positively cruel.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

DONAHOE'S MAGAZINE—With each succeeding number Donahoe's has rapidly risen, since it passed under the direction of the Donahoe Magazine Co., a few months ago. Its sudden and growing popularity, under the new management, and its own superior worth have already established two facts; the one the real existence of its special field for labor, and the other, a ready facility in the carrying on of its work. The number for May is before us. It opens with "Through the World's Fair in an hour," by Commissioner E. C. Hovey. It well deserves perusal, as besides ease and elegance of words, it is the most instructive statement we have seen on this somewhat trite topic. "The Sisters in the Civil War," by Charles S. O'Neill, paints in terms of well-merited praise, the deeds of heroism and self-sacrificing devotedness of these noble women during the trying years of the war. One of the author's remarks, while not surprising is nevertheless a crushing proof