

SONNET.

As when a mother's tender-reaching hand
Removes the baby-clasp and shows the track
It needs must go alone, it glances back,
Scarce knowing how without her help to stand,
And clutches vainly at the sweeping skirt,
Then staggers forward, the fearful lest it fall,
So I, a little one, in losing all
Of thee, O friend, who guarded me from hurt,
Who led me through the years, day after day,
Unconsciously supported, clinging fast
To thy great strength, like as the child at last
Perceiving whence the aid has come, it may
No longer have, do stumble silent on
Unto dim depths where never yet hope shone.

EVELYN DURAND.

EARTH, AIR, FIRE AND WATER.

BY A THEOLOG.

Now they are fairly entered on their years, you see how each school of Theologs is adapted to the element in which it labors. Here first is the rock-loving Knoxonian. He delves on, weather always permitting, at the bottom of his Spadina Ave. shaft. The hard fruits of his subterranean labor are seen in the Homiletical Department of the College museum. The cases are rich in doctrinal specimens—ecclesiastical ores, valuable and invaluable, and religious sandstones. Brimstone specimens of untold value are cabinetted for reference. Heresy-analysis by fire goes on under the visitor's eye. Patience unbounded has produced a faultless class of the products of such mining heroes as Calvin, Knox and Luther. In pity regard these obscure geologists in recesses too deep for the finding of jewels, too heavy-walled for music, too sunless for flowers, too narrow for recreation. The crowning joy of the grave aspirants within is to learn of Revelation, and to descant on the everlasting utility of the churches' coal-measures.

The following notes from authentic source will serve the purpose of a visit to the centre of ærial learning, on the S.W. corner of Queen's Park: All questions relating to light and shade, the reflection and refraction of dim religious light; the relations between the human soul and monotone; the laws of cloud form High and Low; the importance of air to the life of the church; studies in clerical voice-registers; how to hypnotize congregations by sonorous delivery; the art of establishing communication between high-box pulpits and people on the earth; Rarefaction of atmosphere at various pulpit altitudes; how to lighten theology and inflate the ecclesiastical balloon; experiments in air navigation; (a heavy atmosphere favorable to the success of such experiments fills and surrounds the College building).

The Victorian will soon be here. In the meantime he studies in his high temperature the properties of heat, and heat as a motor in religious life. First there is the whole theory of religious Spontaneous Combustion to master. And Voluntary Combustion is not neglected, for each graduate must be able to produce in the coldest season a vigorous religious movement. The science of applying hot theological fomentations to communities to reduce church debts is mastered in the fourth year. The mercury is not allowed to fall below 75° around the College, so that since the cheaper scheme of heating by Liberal Fire went out of use, the steam heat consumes a big educational fund. The course in Pulpit Athletics insures a steady, fervid bodily heat in the preacher. (There is no option here—all students must take this course.) All the College songs are of the "Turn or burn" ring, and are sung with feverish enthusiasm.

Now note the fishy instinct of the McMaster theolog.

Marine athletes are trained there! He delves not in the earth as the Presbyterian; he works not for any mastery of air navigation as the Episcopalian; he is out of his element amid the glow and heat of Wesley's Vulcan fires. He is an amphibian learning to spout—whale-like; merrily disporting in his element, water-proof as the porpoise; shark-like digesting a whole 15th century theology, cutting through Calvinist sea-depths with the speed of a sword; every uninvited and victorious from the slippery coils of every devil-fish heresy of whatever type. In this element, salt or fresh, he will be a Sea King.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Having in mind the fact that at the public debate, to be held on the 28th of the month, "Imperial Federation" is to be the topic of discussion, it may not be amiss to call attention to the "Study of Imperial Federation," by J. Castell Hopkins, which has just issued from the press of C. Blakett Robinson, in neat pamphlet form. The study shows a deal of thoughtful research, and the arguments are concisely presented and clearly brought out.

In Part I., Mr. Hopkins briefly describes the origin of the Imperial Federation League, and outlines the objects it desires to compass. He endeavors to show by quotations from numerous colonial and imperial statesmen that the scheme is both practicable and desirable in the opinions of men who are no mean authorities. In Part II., he presents arguments to show the results which would flow from Imperial Federation, under three heads: (1) It would afford a combination for defence, (2) It would facilitate co-operation in trade, (3) It would tend to a gradual consolidation of political relations. The weak point in his argument seems to be that he does not satisfactorily establish the proposition that these are desirable ends, would effect them. The second proposition all people would admit to be a desirable end, viz., that better trade relations are very desirable for Canada, but the first and the last propositions require very substantial argumentative backing before thoughtful men and women will accept them as desirable.

Mr. Hopkins' attempt to answer the very pertinent question: "Why not stay as we are?" does not seem very satisfactory. He points to our manifest growth since our establishment as colonies, and declares that no progressive society, no living and changing constitutional system, such as ours is, can remain stationary." Most people will grant him that he is at least truthful in this statement. But since, under our colonial relationship, we have gone on developing and progressing (as he well points out) without Imperial Federation, it does seem probable that we might venture to expect a continuation of these blessings under the same relationship. His objections to both "Annexation" and "Independence" are well taken, though he does seem rather vigorous in his criticism of American institutions.

His argument as to the loss Canadian credit would sustain in the money market as a result of Independence is a potent one as against those who look to Independence as a desirable goal; and the arguments that unless the Empire is consolidated there is an imminent danger of the mercantile and naval supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race being wrested from her; and that Anglo-Saxon institutions may be forced to occupy a secondary place in the world owing to our loss of physical strength—these are arguments worthy of serious consideration. If by tariffs or other circumstances our much boasted Great Britain should be circumstanced on her own resources we should soon realize her littleness. Should any combination of power succeed in shutting out raw material from the little Island she must soon succumb. In such a case an outlying empire would be highly desirable to Great Britain, at least, and if there were danger of the Anglo-Saxon race being conquered by piecemeal, as Mr. Hopkins seems to think there is, it must also be desirable to the colonies.