

❖LITERARY.❖

MA COUSINE.

YOU are charming and petite,
Ma Cousine,
And your winsome smile is sweet
To be seen,
And your laughter overflows
Like a babbling brook that goes
Dancing through the leafy close
Just at e'en.

Do you love the mellow moon
With her sheen
Gilding every leaf in June,
Ma Cousine ?
Tells she you as sweet a tale
As the daisy blossom trail,
Nodding in the gentle gale,
Calm of mien ?

As the valley lily sways
Mid the green
Of fair bowers on summer days,
Dainty green !
So you, purest of the flowers
In this weary world of ours
Should dwell only in its bowers,
Ma Cousine.

—Selected.

THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.

AN ENGLISH CRITICISM.

THE death of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the great American poet, brings freshly to the mind many of his noble poems, which have won for themselves lasting fame as pure specimens of the English literature of the present century. It is interesting, too, at this time, to recall the impression which these poems created among the reading and cultured classes of the Old World at the time of their first publication. "Hiawatha" made its appearance in the year 1856, and was greeted with especial favour as an essentially American production. A criticism in mock verse appeared in the London *Punch* at the time, which we reprint for the benefit of our readers:

You, who hold in grace and honor,
Hold, as one who did you kindness
When he publish'd former poems,
Sang Evangeline the noble,
Sang the golden Golden Legend,
Sang the songs the Voices utter
Crying in the night and darkness,
Sang how unto the Red Planet
Mars he gave the Night's First Watches,
Henry Wadsworth, whose *adnomen*
(Coming awkward, for the accents,
Into this his latest rhythm)
Write we as Protracted Fellow,
Or in Latin, *Longus Comes*,—
Buy the Song of Hiawatha.

Should you ask me, Is the poem

words in almost every page of his examination papers. It may be answered by some that deficiency in English need not prevent a thorough acquaintance with the sciences, or with philosophic thought, but we reply that it is the duty of those who are pursuing even these branches of study to learn how to handle well the language which is to be their vehicle of expression. We have not alluded to the luxury which, aside from its practical power, is enjoyed by careful students of English. It would be out of place for us to dilate upon the beauties of the language—we leave that to such foreigners as Grimm—but we affirm that classic English is too little read, and appreciated in a still smaller degree. When we consider also, that the chaste and full expression of such comparatively recent writers as Addison, Burke, or Macaulay is within the imitative reach of modern students of English, we have an object of attainment, it seems to us, more inspiring than proficiency even in the Ancient Classics.

We hope to see a greater interest taken in English education in the Canadian schools in future. We are not ignorant of the fact that in no country in the world is the English language more correctly *spoken* than in Canada, but we say, train pupils in the public schools to understand it as well as speak it, and the result will be, we are persuaded, not only the removal of many difficulties which now beset the student when he attempts University examinations, but a wide-spread impetus to the progress of higher education in general. We are glad to be able to note in this connection the increasing prominence given to the study of Rhetoric and English Literature in Queen's. The class is now divided into a Junior and Senior, and ably conducted as it is by the popular Professor of English, is not excelled in interest by any other department of study.