

Pirou avenged himself by numerous satires, the best of which is the epitaph he wrote for himself :

Ci-git Piron qui ne fut rien,  
Pas même académicien.

Another, wifably, too modest to offer himself as a candidate, with great wit answered those requesting him to do so ; " If I was of the Academy, people would perhaps say, ' why does he belong to it.' I prefer that they should say ' why does he not belong to it.' " The illustrious company, however, has possessed nearly all the famous writers of France. In the world of letters those worthy authors who were not its members, are often called with reference to it, the possessors of the forty-first seat.

Among contemporary writers let us remark Alexandre Dumas, fils, Francois Coppé, Jules Simon, Victorien Sardou, Louis Pasteur, Cardinal Perraud, Jules Claretie, Pierre Loti, F. Brunetiere, and Paul Berget who though elected, has not yet been received. France has been accused of producing nowadays but atheistical writers. Here is a startling proof of the contrary. The Paris *Figaro*, which can be regarded as the best authority in this matter, published in November '94 a list of the Academicians and their religion. They were then but thirty-seven, three having not yet been replaced. Of these, thirty are Catholics ; three, Cherbuliez, Léon Say, and de Freycinet, protestants ; one Challemet Lacour, atheist ; one, Dumas, free-thinker ; one, Meilliac, Jew ; and one, Pasteur, without any known religion. This last, however, we have the consolation of knowing to have been a true Catholic. Thus adding one more to the above, we have thirty-one Catholics out of thirty-seven members. It would be beyond our compass to treat of each of these distinguished authors in particular. We will speak but of the two men of wonderful genius who have just died, Pasteur and Dumas.

France can boast of having produced the greatest scientist of the century, the greatest, perhaps, the world has yet seen. Pasteur created, alone, a science that has totally revolutionized medicine in its theories and applications. For cen-

turies scientists had sought the secret of contagion, which they knew by its effects, but whose nature and cause they could not discover. More skilful and more fortunate, Pasteur has demonstrated his theory by a few striking experiments. He proved that a contagious disease is produced by the transportation of a living microbe from one organism to another, just like the sowing of a seed in the ground. He no sooner gave this general explanation than he also gave the means of preventing it by the inoculation of a virus, which recalls the vaccination of Jenner. Victorious over innumerable obstacles, Pasteur has completely changed medicine ; diseases till then supposed incurable, he has succeeded in checking. Proceeding, like a mathematician, from the simplest forms and ascending gradually, he has arrived at the most difficult. From mere lacteal fermentation to hydrophobia, all secrets have been penetrated by his untiring genius. The greatness of the system of Pasteur is that it is an inexhaustible mine. Every disease caused by the action of microbes can and will be cured by the same principles. Dr. Roux, the worthy co-worker of the dead scientist, discovered a year ago the serum to cure diphtheria. Other remarkable men are now seeking the microbe of consumption. Thus all the future discoverers will be indebted to him who was the originator of the theory and who put it into practice with such success.

Pasteur has said : " I invincibly believe that science and peace will triumph over ignorance and war, that nations will act in concord, not to destroy but to edify, and that the future will belong to those who have done the most for suffering humanity." If such should be the case, no one will have better exemplified it than Pasteur, and no name is engraved deeper in the tablets of immortality. He must ever be regarded as one of the greatest benefactors of mankind. As soon as he made a discovery, he gave it to the world, and his disciple, Dr. Roux, has followed this admirable example. How different from those scientists who, for the most part, first regard the money they will derive from their labors. The researches of science enjoy the privilege that the