

old Romans, simple in their tastes, frugal in their habits, hardy and vigorous in their mode of life, and though we have no expectation of seeing them, like the Romans, conquering the world, we can testify to the fact that our young people are holding their own in it with many who have had vastly superior advantages in birth, education and early environment.



# Conduct Columns.

WHEN we pass from our health columns to those that relate to conduct and behaviour, our task is a much less simple one. True, in the majority of cases no difficulty occurs. We have perhaps had half a dozen letters during the year in each of which the boy is reported to be doing well and the Visitor received the same report when he paid the annual or semi-annual visit of inspection. The word "satisfactory" or "very good," under these circumstances, says all there is to be said; but in other cases when there have been complaints, we have to adjust our mental scales with great nicety and bring into exercise such limited judicial faculties as we have been endowed with to enable us to pronounce a just and impartial verdict, and to characterize a boy's conduct and behaviour as it deserves, remembering that the judgment we pronounce will remain as a record for or against him after we have passed away and present conditions are changed and gone. We have to weigh well the source from which the complaint comes and the spirit in which it is made. We have to discount a letter written perhaps by a woman of naturally sour disposition, prone to see more of harm than of good in those about her, and more eager to hear hers. If talk and to display her skill as a correspondent than to exercise the charity that thinketh no evil. In other cases we have to allow for the prejudice and the disposition that can not help but find to regret our loss and grieve for "shaped" in dispute. In such cases a degree of good will is often shown by human nature. On the other hand we have to be on our guard against

suffering and forbearance are exercised and where complaint is only made because all other means have failed.



# Reading Between the Lines.

EVEN with our excellent Visitors we have to exercise some degree of discrimination, as, while we well know the information given and the opinions expressed are strictly and conscientiously in accordance with the facts ascertained, we have to allow for a habit of mind that inclines one of our esteemed colleagues to take generally a lugubrious view of the situation, and rather to borrow trouble from the future than to see the brighter aspects of present conditions; while, on the other hand, one, at any rate, of the five gentlemen, through whose spectacles we have to look, has naturally a love of boys and a sympathy with them in the position in which he finds them that unconsciously leads him to minimize their failings and to see redeeming features in the most unpromising conditions. When, therefore, we read in the one gentleman's reports, boys very ill behaved, we surmise that the Visitor may perhaps have lighted upon the scene on washing day, the master of the establishment having prudently discovered that his presence was imperatively required at market that day, with sufficient mud under foot and rain overhead to make the prospects of drying uncertain and unsatisfactory, and when the boy perhaps has gone off to school without bringing in the wood, or having been commissioned to fasten the line, did it so carelessly that the first lot of clean clothes landed in a quagmire. We realize how readily and forcibly under such circumstances there would pour forth a receptive ear a narrative of misadventure and calamities that would be pointed out, exaggerating and then pronounced to our colleagues, reported to the boys, and repeated, that the boys' delinquencies are not so common as they are represented to be. The visitor has to be on his guard against this, and to remember that a boy's delinquencies are not so common as they are represented to be.