

I drew attention\* to a ridiculous poem upon Longfellow written in bad Latin and worse verse, full of false quantities, solecisms, and every sort of blunder, which was printed in the *New England Journal of Education* upon the recommendation of a classical professor in the University of Missouri. I thought at the time that this was the end of the matter, but what was my amazement on opening the September number of *Latine*, a journal printed in Latin, and published at New York by Appleton & Co., when I found this identical piece of rubbish reprinted there again, with all its imperfections on its head. I looked through the pages of *Latine* and I was no longer astonished; for I was confronted by a translation from Shakspeare's *Julius Cæsar* (act III., scene 2), in which Brutus is made to speak 'dog Latin,' while Antony's "Friends, Romans, countryman!" appears in prose! And *Latine* is edited by Prof. Edgar S. Shunway, of the State Normal School, Potsdam, N.Y.! I think such a fact as this requires no comment.

You will allow me to add a few words of personal experience. I may say that for over twenty years I have been engaged upon the study of Latin and Greek, first as a learner, afterwards as a teacher, and always as a patient student. Ten years ago I was as much convinced of the superiority and vast importance of a classical education as its most zealous advocates, but the movement of the age and practical experience as a teacher told on me as they have told on many others. I have seen little boys puzzling their heads over Latin and Greek and French simultaneously, and I have seen it with sorrow. I have noticed their distaste for the study and the increased animation that comes into their work when from the hated Classics they pass to an English or Historical lesson. Many times I have wished it was my lot not to have to teach what was only taught with infinite trouble and when acquired would be useless. Not only so, but when I desire to probe a boy's mind, to make him think and reason, I always find that I can do it better with an English lesson of some kind than with one in Latin. Side by side with this I put my own personal experience. I will not say that in my literary work I have not found what knowledge of the Classics I possess extremely valuable, or that I get no personal pleasure out of this knowledge;

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\*RECORD, Aug. 1882, Vol. II., p. 315.