

actions and the operations of the mind is apparent enough. But who shall sufficiently estimate the value of Fact rescued from oblivion, this dead tale made to live again with mighty influence by the inspiring breath of the poet? Something there is in the story of humanity that mixes with our daily bread, works upon our sympathies, passes, and seems to die, and, in proportion to its magnitude, affects in memory or oblivion the tone of forthcoming years. It is the dignity and high duty of the historian to rebuild the old universal life of public institutions. The poet has another function—the resurrection from the past of whatever may affect, not in so great a measure the mould of national institutions as the conduct of the private life. So by the infusion of his invigorating insight into this shapeless mass the poet relates all its constituents to those ultimate truths which humanity finds so hard to grasp. He never blinks at the appalling realities that meet him on the threshold of inquiry, the malignity of man and the fearful price we pay for living. He can account for our perverted vision and the hap-hazard progress of our history, solving all deficiencies by his scheme of a tentative humanity for which perfection is too mature a product. Again and again he insists upon the fact that man was born to fall and to rise by falling. He prefers the honest, disinterested opinion of the bystander, Half-Rome, though wide of the truth to the specious reasoning in a good cause of the advocate who pleads for Pompilia's life and after her death stabs her dearest interests. It is a humorous picture that he draws of the average mortal passing confident judgment upon current events (it is still in life, for man seems born to talk whether wisely or no) and the exasperating indication of the hollow insincerity of the pleaders is also placed in vivid contrast to the just insight of the one mortal who is sincere among all the spectators—the good and honest Pope. How much Carlyle prizes this quality of insight and capability of prompt action even when inherent in a man like Mirabeau of dissolute life! There is something consolatory in the idea of this serene vision unobstructed by prejudice and partiality piercing to the core of things and unhesitatingly pronouncing the decisive judgment.

There is nothing more precarious and nothing more tenacious than opinion. It shapes itself upon events which are most often connected in a prejudicial degree with self-interest, and hence our judgments are oblique. Still remains the Fact to be the butt of ignorant minds till the perfect opinion rescues it from oblivion, even if to exist only as a law-precedent. The poet-soul of Browning has for the first time conceived completely what is the righteous opinion of the events in this intricate drama, and the world will be loath to let such opinion die. Facts are at bottom obstinate things, yet pliable enough when superficially regarded. In the domain of natural science exact results can be obtained by methods equally exact, and without deeper fathoming we have Fact or Truth as substantial as the human understanding can digest. But in the shadowy field of Ethics, where unsubstantial shreds are blown about by the breath of shifting opinions, and too rarely inwoven into the veritable garment of the Deity, it is the chiefest glory of the poet to perform this duty, and like the mysterious Erd-Geist of Faust

Zu schaffen am sausenden Webstuhl der Zeit,
Und wirken der Gottheit lebendiges Kleid.

PELHAM EDGAR.

The United States Government is now expending \$100,000 in erecting a gymnasium for the West Point cadets.

It is said that Charles K. Landis, the founder of Sea Isle City, has presented to the University of Pennsylvania a tract of five acres of ground there, whereon he proposes to erect a grand marine aquarium. The buildings are to be completed by June 10, and when finished will be under the direct charge of the Biological Department of the University.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The last meeting of the Modern Language Club for this year was held on Monday last. The meeting was English, the subject Arthur Hugh Clough. The programme began with a thoughtful essay by Mr. Munro, '91, on Clough's "Amours de Voyage." In speaking of the "modern school"—in which Clough is classed with Matthew Arnold—the essayist says: "In the treatment of the subjective side of human nature Browning may be considered a great master, but in him there was far more of the 'human with his droppings of warm tears.' In these writers, however, we see at once the shadow of intellect falling across the heart. The *sentiment* of life which may lead us away from the heights of abstraction must be deserted for the guidance of the intellect in its search for the 'Absolute something.'" Of the poem "Amours de Voyage," which is minutely treated in the rest of the essay, he says: "On the one hand is the restlessness of mere intellectuality to escape and be free, on the other the instinct of the human for the social; these are continually striving with one another. Herein is formed the dramatic interest. No mere lifeless conversation concerning right and wrong is this poem, but a well written drama of life and of sorrow, of unsatisfied aims and of withered ambitions; self-satisfying beliefs, long cherished, go down in the contest, and two hearts are left yet unsatisfied, both suffer, but one has caused it all—the one in whom is represented this contest of mind and heart." The next number was a piano solo by Miss Hart. It was brilliantly executed, and heartily enjoyed by all.

An essay was then read by Miss Phelps, '91, on Clough's life. It was filled with interesting facts regarding the life and character of Clough; and was the more enjoyable because it contained so much that was entirely new to most of the members. We can give only the closing sentences: "Constant in the performance of what he considered to be his duty, honest in his desire to discover truth, absolutely without prejudice, unselfish and peculiarly lovable, we cannot but regret deeply that lack of the faith which could alone make him a perfect man. This utter failure in the solution of every problem, this doubt and uncertainty which is breathed forth in all his poetry, is doubtless the reason that it has never become popular, nor produced the results which his genius promised.

"Perplexed in faith and pure in deeds,
At last he beat his music out."

At the end of the programme the election of officers for the coming year was held with the following result: Honorary President, D. R. Keys, M.A.; President, H. W. Brown, '92; First Vice-President, F. B. R. Hellesms, '93; Second Vice, Miss Hillock, '92; Recording Secretary, J. W. Baird, '94; Corresponding Secretary, F. G. Crosby; Councillors, fourth year, O. P. Edgar and A. L. Lafferty; third, Miss Lye and A. Beatty; second, Miss McBride and W. J. Lingalbach. After the result had been announced, the retiring President called upon the newly elected President to take the chair. A motion was presented thanking the retiring committee for their efforts on behalf of the club. After thanking the Society for their expression of gratitude, Mr. McLay gave a report of the work done during the year, and closed with the wish that the next year of the Society might be a very prosperous one. The meeting then adjourned, to reassemble in October.

Harvard College has recently established a course of systematic reading which includes the principal works of all the prominent English authors. The course will extend throughout the regular college course.

Women at present constitute fifty-five per cent. of the undergraduates in the United States. Wellesley College has an endowment of \$2,500,000, Bryn Mawr of \$1,100,000, Vassar of \$1,200,000, and Smith of \$400,000.