

## ROUND THE TABLE.

The following memorial verses appeared some time ago in the *Japan Weekly Mail*. The poem is a beautiful lament, and has the great charm of simplicity through all its passion. It may surprise by its delicacy and refined expression those who did not imagine that poetry existed in that remote and little-known country. It bears the title

### LAMENT OF THE PRINCE OF CHOSHIN ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE.

(From the Japanese.)

Waking at midnight when the world is still,  
Alone I seem to drift upon a tide  
Of dreary waters, while the dying moon  
Sinks slowly gathering all her tender rays,  
And leaving the dark-visaged night forlorn.  
Moans the wild wind; the air is filled with frost;  
My eyes are dull, but solitude and cold,  
Like cruel-throated watch dogs, scare away  
The timid traveller, Sleep.

I cannot rest;

A dear face shines upon me like a star  
Through death and darkness. Poor sweet, lonely love!  
Oh, I would be the stone upon her grave,  
Or the least flower that blossoms on her dust,  
But for the blessed hope that I shall meet  
My darling somewhere in the silent land.  
The rock of death divides the rushing wave,  
But the twain streams shall surely meet again.

Through the dim world the village temple bell  
Touches my ears, and every solemn sound  
Repeats her name whose pensive thoughts were prayer.  
My arms are empty, but my heart is full,  
And shall be full forever more.

\* \* \*

Very sober, discreet and decorous has The Table been at the pleasant weekly gatherings of which it has been the centre throughout the year. No triolets or ballads, the fizzing, sparkling champagne of literature, have been served to the guests; never an ode, the drowsy port and sherry of the elder bards; love lyrics, the claret, the drink for boys, have you ever been offered these? A few nondescript poems, the *vin ordinaire* of verse, have now and again been handed round; and once, O memorable day, the College News Reporter treated the company to "a meat pie!"

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Now, however, that our year is drawing to a close; now that The Table is about to be given over again to the dust and cobwebs; now that we are about to part, all of us, for six months, some of us, perhaps, for ever, we may be allowed to celebrate our last session, as old friends sometimes do, by discussing a bowl of punch which the Foreign Editor has brewed for us, after Schiller's famous receipt. If he has made mistakes, if Prussic acid has crept in in place of lemon, if the sugar is remarkable for its scarceness, if the spirits are not of the oldest, nor the water of the hottest; let us be charitable, let us believe that he has meant to entertain us well.

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Here is the bowl of Punch.

SONG.

(After the German.)

Fill up again. 'Tis my advice  
To drink till we see double;  
For till we've seen a brother twice,  
To love him it were trouble.

CHO. Then, boys, drink deep,  
While yet to drink we're able,  
Before we sink, and sleep  
Forgotten 'neath the table.

Let sober fellows ne'er relax  
Their toiling after money;

While they are busy moulding wax,  
We drones will sip the honey.  
CHO. So, boys, drink deep, &c.

They say that men who live like this,  
Arrive at old age never;  
'Tis true. For while we drink, I wis,  
We keep our youth forever!  
CHO. So, boys, drink deep, &c.

And when at last we reach life's edge,  
With unrepented errors,  
Be our last toast, to rise and pledge  
The grisly King of Terrors."  
CHO. Then boys, drink deep, &c.

And so, dear readers, The Table bids you a fond farewell, wishing you a happy issue out of your afflictions, and looking forward to the fall in the hope that, if it is not handed over to the bailiff, it may again welcome its friendly guests of the past year.

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

ALL reports from Societies must reach us by noon on Thursday to insure insertion.

### MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

At the closing meeting of the Club in Y.M.C.A. hall, Mr. Rodd moved, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, "That the following memorial be forwarded by the Club to the Senate of the University:—

"While we wish to acknowledge the great benefit to be gained from pursuing the Modern Language course as at present laid out, yet we feel that to those who are desirous of making a special study of the great living languages, our course does not at present afford as great an opportunity as we deem it might, with but a few most important and most desirable changes in the constitution of it. We need hardly refer to the fact that during the past few years the Modern Language course has been enlarged, not only by an increase in the number of text books in each subdivision, but also by the addition of Spanish and the growing importance of Italian, and since there has not been a corresponding decrease in honour work, which is foreign to the course which we are desirous of making a special study, nor a corresponding increase in the work required for matriculation, we submit that we have not as great an opportunity of making a careful study of the Modern Languages—especially of English—as we would have were our course a Modern Language course not only in name but in reality.

"We would wish also to call attention to the fact that our course is less efficient as a special department than it should be, from the fact that at present our lecturers are engaged to a great measure in teaching elementary work to the students of other departments, and as a result less time is given to those students who are specializing in Moderns than otherwise would be. Our course in this respect is unique, no other department having to contend against the same difficulties. Every student in our college, not pursuing a course of study in the Honour Department of Classics or Mathematics, is required to pass examinations in French and German, and special elementary classes have to be formed for giving the necessary instruction—work which obviously, and in justice to the Modern Language students, should be done in our high schools.

"In view of the foregoing facts we humbly pray that on the remodelling of the curriculum such changes may be made as shall have in view the attainment of the following objects:—

"1. The removal of history and ethnology as honour subjects from the Modern Language Course.

"2. The re-arrangement of the course as regards Italian and Spanish in order that by taking up the study of these subjects earlier in our course a fuller and more advanced knowledge of them may be gained.

"3. The removal of all obstacles preventing our lecturers from giving their whole time to advanced work in their department, by enacting that all students, not intending to pur-