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THE OLD SCHOOLMASTER.

CHAPTER II.

Contentment hath an effervescence sweet,
A well-spring reaming o'er with wealth its own;
At once the charm, where worldly noises meet,
That makes life's lakelet pure and lily-blown.

Those of my readers, who have taken pains to follow the record of educational events for the last score of years or more, can hardly fail to remember something of the several attempts which have been put forth from time to time to make some provision for teachers in their old age.

The pension fund, or rather *a* pension fund,—any kind of a pension fund,—was long an exciting theme among teachers. Not unlike the later agitation to increase the teacher's salary, there was for a long time a good deal said but very little done. Of course there was opposition, as there is opposition to every movement for the welfare of any class in the community. The negative side is always a favourite side for those who are weak in originating. There is a consolation, perhaps even a mild form of revenge, to be found under the standard of protest to those who are not in a position, either through accident or intentional oversight, to share in the *éclat* of the inceptive cere-