

as the right heading. "My dear mother" is rightly placed at last, the same way, and, preliminaries adjusted, the real business of the day begins in earnest. "My dear mother—I did not get into Swallow's Brook before the hand of the clock, on the lower church, told three-quarters of eight," and so forth. The letter being finished, revision and criticism begin. Each pupil changes slates with her or his neighbour, who has to pick holes and find fault. The corrected slates are all shown to the master, who gives the finishing touch. At last, they all sit down to the desk, take pen and ink, mend their pens, rule their paper, and write out the letter fairly on the pages of their letter-book, which is to form a standard of reference for any letters of the sort they may want to write in their future life.

4. AN EXPERIMENT IN SAXONY.

A novel and most interesting experiment in the field of elementary instruction has just been resolved upon in Saxony. Hitherto, as everywhere else, so in that small but highly-developed kingdom, the youth of the lower orders, upon being apprenticed to a trade, have been left at liberty to forget the little they have learned at school. Attendance at Sunday school and evening instruction provided by the State and charitable societies was perfectly optional. By a law just passed this liberty is abridged, and compulsory attendance at evening schools exacted for a period of three years. This is the first time, if we are not mistaken, in the annals of the world, that an attempt has been made by a State to extend the education of the humblest classes beyond the merest rudiments, and after they have entered upon the business of life. Saxony, already the best taught portion of Germany, will by the new law be more than ever in advance of her sister States.

5. SCHOOLDAYS AND FESTIVALS IN SWITZERLAND.

The festivals and holidays of a Switzer are connected with his life at school. Each change is made the pretext for a feast. On going to school there is a feast; on leaving school there is a feast; at every stage of his advance there is a feast. There is a vacation feast, assembling feast; when a new teacher comes there is a feast, and when a teacher leaves there is a feast. The school is made to him by public and private acts a centre of all happy thoughts and times. It shares the joys of home and the rewards of church. At school a Swiss boy finds his mates, with whom he learns to sing and play, to drill and shoot. The teacher is to him a father. With this teacher he will grow into a man, assisted on his way with care and love, unmixed with either foolish fondness or paternal pride. With him and with his mates, the lad will take his country strolls, collecting rocks and, plants, will push his boat across the lake, dive into the secrets of the ancient waterfolk, will pass by train into some neighbouring commune where the arts are other than he sees at home. All bright and pleasant things are grouped about him; and in after time, when farm and counter occupy his cares, these classroom days will seem to him the merriest of his life.—"*The Switzers*," by W. Hepworth Dixon.

6. LIBERAL PROGRESS IN CHINA.

The Chinese Government has appropriated \$1,000,000 for sending, annually, thirty of the leading alumni of the Government Colleges to the United States to complete their education in American colleges. The first deputation of thirty young men will arrive in San Francisco in July or August in charge of Shan Lai Sun, who has been in this country and is familiar with its manners, language and customs. The young gentlemen will be distributed for the usual four years' course in the leading colleges, and will be followed next year by thirty more, in charge of Yung Wing. This gentleman with Chan Lai Sun, Wang Sing, and Lee Can, now a resident of San Francisco, were classmates in a Government school, and graduated with high honours. Yung Wing then came to America and attended Yale College, where he graduated with great credit. He then returned home, and was sent by his Government to England to purchase machinery for the Government arms foundries; and is now deputed to superintend the education of thirty students in the sciences of the Western world. These important movements of the Chinese Administration are a practical reply to those who sneer at Burlingame's mission, and who affect to belittle the civilizing tendencies of the Chinese rulers. This measure may be taken as the first Government sanction of foreign travel on a large scale. It is, to be sure, under Government sanction, but will have the effect of popularizing travel, and, by so doing, break down that reluctance to go abroad manifest among the better class of Chinese, and which has resulted from an indisposition to contravene Government wishes.—*Alta California*.

7. WOMEN STUDENTS IN ZURICH.

A letter in the *National Gazette*, of Zurich, says that, at present,

out of some 400 students at the University at Zurich, there are eighty ladies, in attendance, most of them students of medicine. A large proportion of these ladies belong to Russia, where the movement in favour of female education has taken very distinct shape, though they have not been able yet to establish a medical college of their own. It would seem, from the remarks of the writer of the letter, that the lady students are hardly much more in favour with their masculine companions at Zurich than they have been at the University of Edinburgh, although there have been none of the discreditable scenes at the former by which the latter has made itself notorious. The professors are also a good deal puzzled, sometimes, how to proceed, and some of them do not hesitate to speak openly in condemnation and discouragement of the lady medical students—remarks which are sure to be applauded by the chivalrous males.

V. Educational and Literary Summary.

The constituted authorities of several schools of repute having expressed their desire that the Universities would undertake the systematic examination of their pupils, both Oxford and Cambridge have appointed Syndicates "to confer with the Committee of Masters of Schools," and their Reports are expected to appear at the end of the present term. It will be remembered that, rather more than a year ago, Dr. Ridding, of Winchester, on behalf of the Committee of Head Masters, addressed a letter to the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities upon certain "points in which the education of the University and Schools come into contact." A Syndicate of the University of Cambridge was in consequence appointed, which, after a conference with the Committee of Masters, recommended, in November last, that the University should undertake, in conjunction with the other English Universities, (1) to examine the highest grade schools in school work, in such a manner as to enable the examiners to report on the general character and efficiency of the teaching in each school; (2) to examine individually boys who are leaving school, and to certify that the successful candidates have reached a standard suitable for boys (a) under 19, or (b) under 16, years of age. This Report having been accepted by the Senate, the Syndicate proceeded, in conjunction with a similar body representing the University of Oxford, to frame precise regulations, which, it is understood, have been submitted to the Committee of Head Masters, and may shortly be expected to be made public. It is perhaps premature to foretell the fate of the Scheme; but it foreshadows undoubtedly a most important reform which is in progress among our leading public schools, and which no one interested in the improvement of the higher education of the country will regard with indifference.

On the occasion of the annual conferring of degrees by the University of London, on the 15th ult., Mr. Lowe, who is a member of the Senate of the University and its representative in Parliament, expressed an opinion in favour of making Greek an optional subject at the Matriculation Examination, to be substituted either by an additional modern language or by some branch of Natural or Physical Science. The proposed change has now been before the body of graduates for the last two years, but has not yet received the sanction of the Convocation. At the last meeting, on the 14th ult., the subject was referred back to the Annual Committee of Convocation for further consideration. In the course of the same speech, Mr. Lowe urged benefactors of education to leave money for the endowment of scholarships at the Universities rather than of professorial chairs, on the ground that the pay of lecturers ought to be in proportion to the amount of instruction they give—i. e., to the number of their pupils. Mr. Lowe appears, however, that quality as well as quantity is required in teaching, and that this quality can only be secured by original work, to devote himself to which the professor must be to a certain extent independent of the emoluments derived from actual teaching.

The *Westminster Review*, in its last number, discusses at considerable length the proposed University of Wales. The suggestions thrown out were all practical—that such a University should be unoriginal sectarian; that its instruction should be high in quality, comprehensive in range, and moderate in price; and that its buildings should be situated in a central and healthy locality. The College is now built at Aberystwith, the central town in Wales, from which railways radiate to every quarter. It is to accommodate about one thousand students and a staff of resident professors. Its status is to be that of University College and King's College, London; and it is modelled on the combined constitutions of the Queen's Colleges and University, Ireland. The curriculum is to be adapted for the different professions, and to embrace special preparation for academic degrees. All other colleges and schools in Wales whose course of study comes up to the recognised standard are to be entitled to affiliate to the University, in the same way as the Queen's