

"Well, look at yourself, for instance; your knowledge of history adds so much to your pleasure when you travel, and seems to help you so much in your criticisms of the life and literature of to-day."

"But why do you sigh as if you were a martyr?"

"Because I hate history; it is dull, it is confused; I cannot remember it."

"Do you forget the novels you read last summer, or the people you met at the sea shore?"

"Certainly not; but they are so different. Why, the novels were interesting, and the people were either so charming or so disagreeable, so brilliant or so stupid, that I must be a dunce to forget them."

"Is there no one among all historical people that you care about?"

"Yes, I should like to know about Richard the Lion-Hearted."

"Then, in the name of all that is sensible, why, if you want to find out about Richard of the Lion Heart, do you begin with *Rollin's Ancient History*?"

"I supposed you had to take a course."

And again appears the tone of heroic melancholy, as if "taking a course" was only a little less to be deplored than scaling the enemy's works with the forlorn hope. Now what should I do if I were oppressed with a sense of responsibility towards history, and the only person I cared about within her ranks was he of the Lion Heart? Go to Lingard's endless volumes; to Hallam's *Middle Ages*; Milman's *Latin Christianity*; or any of the ponderous histories of the Crusades? No; I should put my magic lantern in order, hang up my screen, and throw upon it again and again those marvellous pictures from *Ivanhoe*, *The Talisman*, and *The Betrothed*. Through these pictures I should sit beside Richard in palace and chamber, should kneel with him at the high altar, and strike with him on the tented field. I should look into his bright blue eyes, should see his yellow hair floating in the soft southern air; and I dare say for a time should not care where, or in what century, he lived his mortal life. But after I knew Richard as I know my own brothers, I should surely ask who is the lovely woman he alternately caresses and despises? His Queen Berengaria? How came she his queen? Why lingers she here on these blood-stained sands, instead of living at ease in the stately palaces in distant England? Ah! you see I am driven to Agnes Strickland's *Lives of the Queens of England*, without dreaming of them as history at all. Fancy how I should devour every word of her record! Those with whom she spent her days, whom she loved, whom hated, would be to me more than the companions of my own bed and board. And as I note how, after some act of weakness or folly, she crouches terror-stricken before her enraged husband, and read that with all the violence of his race he roughly thrusts her from him, shall I not enquire, what was this man's race that he excuses his savage excesses by saying: "As of old, the Plantagenet is the offspring of a fiend." And the brothers with whom he was always striving, and that Philip, who sent like wildfire through Europe the warning cry: "Look out for yourselves, the devil is loose again," when he escaped from one of his innumerable captivities,—can I rest until I know all that any one knows of them?

And as I find myself in the presence of his parents, that Henry and that Eleanor of bitter memory, and see the latter hunting, like a sleuth-hound, the husband for whom she had sinned so grievously, to the hidden bower of Rosamond, and ever after, in burning revenge, stirring up the fiery hearts of their wretched brood of sons against him; or hear the shrill cries of Becket's murderers disturbing the midnight dreams of shuddering Europe; and, last of all, shrink with horror from the blasphemous curse that Henry flings back upon his God as he writhes upon his frenzied death-bed, must

I not find out what age of this unhappy world could harbor so much human misery? And as Plantagenet, Angevin, Norman, and Saxon cross and recross the confused pages, shall I not be driven to Freeman's *Norman Conquest*, lest my brain should reel in its frenzy of ignorance?

No fear of my stopping now. I shall trace the stream to its source, and even reach "Rollin" in time. I shall not be contented with rapid strides in that direction alone. I shall insist on understanding each particular in the lives of those who sat in Richard's seat, and won his crown after he had laid it by. So you see I should find myself possessed of all historical knowledge through my interest in this daring crusader, whose sword and shield have hung rusted and dull for so many centuries.

I am convinced, for almost all readers, this is the only way to read history with profit. As well eat when you are not hungry, as read when you are not interested; and, unfortunately, the older histories are dull through their formalism and pedantry, and will only be sought by those born with a passion to know how time has been filled up since the flood.

So the way is to take anybody you care for, and plunge in; the wave that bore him on will sweep you into the current of universal knowledge.—*Congregationalist*.

COUNTY COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION OF SCHOOLS.

CLASS V.

ARITHMETIC.

- (1) Define vulgar, decimal, compound, complex, and proper fractions, giving an example of each.
- (2) Find the total cost of papering a room at 8 cts. per square yard, and of the paper at 8 cts. per roll, the room being 12 ft. by 18, the ceiling 10 feet from the floor, and the paper 15 inches wide, and 13 yds. in a roll, no allowance being made for doors or windows.
- (3) Find what fraction 7 ft. 11 in. is of one acre.
- (4) Multiply the sum of $3\frac{1}{2}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ by the difference of $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$; and divide the product by the sum of $94\frac{1}{2}$ and $93\frac{1}{2}$.
- (5) Find the value of $\cdot 2775$ of 1 sq. yd. 3 ft. 72 in.
- (6) Find the difference of $17\cdot 428571$ sq. ft. and $100\cdot 8$ sq. in.
- (7) If 4 reapers receive \$11.04 for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days' work, how many men may be hired for 164 days for \$105.08.
- (8) If I buy \$2500 of Bank Stock at a premium of 8 per cent., immediately sell it out at a premium of $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and invest in 3 per cents. at 106, what interest do I now get on the sum originally invested?
- (9) A man was hired for 50 days at 75 cts. per day, for each day he worked, with the understanding that he was to pay 25 cents per day for each day he was idle. At the end of the time he received \$27.50. How many days did he work?
- (10) Find the length in inches correct to 5 decimal places of one side of a square piece of board that contains exactly half of a square foot.
- (11) Find the proceeds of a note for \$225 due in 3 months, discounted at the Bank at 8 per cent.
Values—9 each for first ten. Last one, 10.
Note—Full work required.

CLASS V.

GRAMMAR.

- (1) Define—conjugation, gender, orthography, syntax, tense.
- (2) Give the plural of—tax, brush, valley, index, flagstaff, brother-in-law, potato, elf, portico.
- (3) Give four nouns, denoting objects either male or female.
- (4) Give the feminine of—lad, male, wizard, czar, tailor, tutor, shepherd, landlord.
- (5) Give the past tense and the present, and the past participle of think, wear, climb, freeze.
- (6) Decline "mouse" and "goose" in both numbers.