

Nature's Te Deum.

Deep in the woods I hear an anthem ringing
 Along the mossy aisles where shadows lie;
 It is the matin hour, the choir is singing
 Their sweet Te Deum to the King on high.

The stately trees seem quivering with emotion:
 They thrill in ecstasy of music rare,
 As if they felt the stirring of devotion,
 Touched by the dainty fingers of the air.

The grasses grow enraptured as they listen,
 And join their verdant voices with the choir,
 And tip their tiny blades that gleam and glisten,
 As thrilled with fragrant fancies of desire.

The brooklet answers to the calling river,
 And, singing, slips away through arches dim;
 Its heart runs over, and it must deliver
 Unto the King of kings its liquid hymn.

A shower of melody, and then a flutter
 Of many wings: the birds are praising, too;
 And in a harmony of song they utter
 Their thankfulness to him, their Master true.

In tearfulness I listen, and admire
 The great Te Deum Nature, kneeling, sings.
 Ah! sweet, indeed, is God's majestic choir,
 When all the world in one great anthem rings.
 —*Sacred Heart Review.*

Composition Work.

Just the mention of a possibility of a "composition" being required of them is sufficient to produce a panic among the pupils of the average school, consequently, I have never mentioned the word to my pupils, yet am not at all dissatisfied with the work they accomplish in that line.

First, let young pupils copy the words and punctuation of their favorite lessons. Call it "copying a story." Then let them write from dictation. Give them an abundance of such work. Then hang an attractive picture before them. Let them talk and question about it. Then require them to write a story about the picture. Look carefully after punctuation, capitalization and spelling; notice every good point and bestow a word of praise and appreciation whenever it is due. Do not pass over these steps too rapidly. The next one will consist in assigning a subject for a "story." Be sure the subjects are such as will prove attractive. "The Habits of the Gray Squirrel," "Why I Play Base Ball," "Five Great Men," are good to

awaken boyish imagination; and girls like such subjects as "The Walk to School," "The Days of the Week," "My Favorite Flower," etc.

When your pupils become proficient in these exercises, it will be perfectly safe to tell them they are writing "compositions," and they will glory in the fact of having vanquished this aged but formidable bugbear.—*Selected.*

CURRENT EVENTS.

No great event in the Japanese-Russian war has occurred since the great battle of Liao-Yang, in which, after terrible losses on both sides, the Russians were compelled to retreat to Mukden. After nearly a month spent in resting and calling up reinforcements, both sides are preparing for a renewal of the struggle near Mukden.

The Japanese are moving, as before, in three armies, from the south, east and southeast. There have been some sharp collisions of outposts, which have developed a good deal of strength in the attacking force. It is not generally believed that General Kuropatkin will give Marshal Oyama battle at Mukden, although the place is well fortified, but that, leaving a strong rear guard to obstruct the Japanese advance, he will fall back to the north upon the strong position at Tie pass, which is capable of an obstinate defense.

The siege of Port Arthur still continues, the stubborn resistance of the garrison being only equalled by the fierce attacks of the Japanese.

Mount Vesuvius is now in more violent eruption than at any time since 1872.

There is a cessation of hostilities between the Uruguayan insurgents and the government, and the insurrectionists are said to have accepted the government's offered terms of peace.

Work on the Simplon tunnel, the fourth railway tunnel under the Alps, mentioned some time ago as nearing completion, has been interrupted by tapping a spring of hot water, which raises the temperature of the air in the tunnel to an insufferable heat. Refrigerating appliances are necessary to enable the workmen to complete the tunnel.

The eighth session of the International Geographic Congress has held its meetings at different points in the United States during the past month. This is the first time the congress has met in the Western Hemisphere. One of the questions under discussion has been the adoption of an international standard time. It is hoped that Greenwich time may be adopted as the basis, as it is with our Atlantic standard and other standard times in North America; so that hours only will be involved in the