

This being the case, where was the inducement to read or to say a really good thing?—the poor article got as much approbation as the good. My advice is let nothing be applauded but what is of real merit.

The comfort and pleasantness of your meetings will depend very largely on your president, and on the attention and obedience you give to his rulings. He will have to see that all your meetings are conducted according to 'the strict rule of parliamentary procedure, and in doing so he will need to exercise a large amount of the *suaviter in modo* and the *fortiter in re*.

In conclusion, let me say that I was glad when I learned that you had formed this society; for I regard a

well-managed Literary Society as a most important adjunct to High School training. There will come a time when you will forget much, very much of your Algebra, Euclid, French and Latin, yet, don't think for that reason that you learnt these subjects for nothing. The good they did you lay in the mental effort you put forth in the learning. But the self-confidence you will gain by appearing before this society in stating a point and supporting it by facts and arguments, the knowledge and experience you will gain of the manner in which public meetings should be conducted—these are benefits which will never leave you, but which will stand you in good stead many and many a time in your future lives.

SIMPLICITY IN POETRY.

[Delivered at a Grammar-School Literary and Debating Society.]

THERE is a story told of some children living in an enchanted land who used to play carelessly with what they supposed were worthless pebbles, until one day a traveller came and told them that those stones which they counted as nothing were indeed jewels of great value. Indifference arising from ignorance, or undue familiarity, is not by any means confined to material objects; in matters of taste also the truth of the proverb is seen—"Familiarity breeds contempt." How many boys and girls there must be in the schools of our land who at some time or other have had set them as a repetition lesson, Cowper's well-known lines on the "Loss of the Royal George"! They probably think them absurdly easy, and fit only for children of tender years, which they will smile at as they grow older. But Mr. Palgrave says of this little poem: "For tenderness and grandeur under the form of severe

simplicity these verses have few rivals. They are Greek after the manner in which a modern English poet should be Greek. Readers who admire them are on the right way to high and lasting pleasure."

Now, if we will but consider the matter, it is more probable that Mr. Palgrave is right in his opinion, and that we, who are somewhat disposed to underrate this poem, are wrong. For Mr. Palgrave, besides holding a very honorable place amongst the poets of the present generation, stands in the front rank of critics in art and literature, and whenever he speaks out on these subjects we ought to listen to him with respect. Let us then for a few moments examine this poem in detail, and see whether we can discover for ourselves "the tenderness and grandeur under the form of severe simplicity" which the critic commends. And first of all we will make a few remarks on what is meant