

Why is Prince Alexander's kingdom like the seat of a boy's pants? Because its the Bulgaria.

Our "Assistant Professor" says that mineral analysis seems to be chiefly "A demmed horrid grind. This is a mortifying announcement for would-be chemists.

Jones, to Smith—"You're the laziest fellow I know."

Smith—"I'm not nearly so lazy as I might be."

Jones—"How do you make that out? You don't get up until ten, and you never do a stroke of work from the time you get up till the time you go to bed again."

Smith—"I might get up at eight, you know. That would give me two more hours of solid loafing."

We have had conventions of bankers, of telegraph operators, of brakemen, of merchants, and, in fact, of nearly every kind of men. The latest suggestion is for all the poets to meet and hold sweet communion with one another in New York or London next year. If the idea is carried into practical effect, it will at last give the dynamiters a chance to confer an inestimable boon on the entire civilized world.

"Can't you tell me, sir, where I might find a situation?" asked a young man of a Montreal citizen. "I am a stranger here." "What at?" was the reply. "Oh anything at all; I am not afraid to work." "Got any recommendations?" "Well, no; but I am industrious, I am honest, I go to church regularly, I don't drink, I don't chew, I don't smoke, I don't lie." "Ah! I see. Just apply around the corner at the dime museum."

Correspondence.

THE STUDY OF CLASSICS.

Editors University Gazette:

DEAR SIRS.—I have neither time nor inclination to answer attacks that may be made upon myself or my writings, especially when, as in the letter of H.M.P., those attacks contain their own refutation. The evidences in that letter of the "deep and various thought" which comes from "doing classics thoroughly" are so striking to call for comment. But the letter permits me, without suspicion of egotism, to state a few facts, personal to myself, which in judging the merits of optional, as opposed to compulsory courses, should weigh more than the most lengthy argument.

In the years immediately preceding my entrance to college, though even then strongly possessed with utilitarian ideas, I came under the influence of a man of singularly fine intellect, an enthusiastic student of the classics, and one whose power of translating from Greek or Latin into vivid English words I have never seen surpassed. The result was that, involuntarily, I learned something of the dead languages, and my "standing" was rather above than "below the average." On coming to McGill I found another system. Where before I had been brought face to face with glowing flesh, I was now confronted with dry bones. Then I formed the plan which afterwards I deliberately

executed. I absented myself from as many of the so-called lectures on classics as I could, without jeopardising my year, and during each of the first two sessions I never wasted any time in preparation of class recitations, save when I expected to be called upon to construe. A few days—once only two—before examination, I commenced to cram, and in not a great many hours prepared enough of a session's work to pass an examination upon it. Naturally my "standing was rather below the average.

Mine was not an isolated case either. My plan was that of others in the same year, and out. Of my class nineteen graduated, and not one of them in the third grade; yet of the nineteen, eight refused to study classics at all after the second year, only three took both Latin and Greek, and not one chose the honour course in classics. I may affirm more. The number of students in classics would have been less even than it was, had it not been for the regulations of the various theological colleges and the bar.

It would be wrong to suppose that the time, which was not devoted to classics by those who pursued the system I have described, was wasted. It was spent profitably in the library, the gymnasium, the football field, and the debating society, each of these institutions receiving a stronger support from the students of '84 than from those of any other year then in college.

Are not these facts to the point? A man may enter the greatest institution of learning on this Continent, the honoured university of Harvard, without knowing one Greek letter from another, and, after he has entered, he need never lift the cover of a Latin work; but then he must know French and German, the pure mathematics, the elements of chemistry and botany, psychology and logic. Supposing McGill University had dealt thus liberally with the class of '84, the class to which it is my pride and boast to have belonged, what would have been the result? For one thing, the class would have graduated more than nineteen, for some of its brightest intellects dropped out in disgust before the end of the second year finding in college no profit for themselves. And those who took the classical course would have been so few, that they would have been brought to early graves by the frequency with which "your turn to read" and "well gwnn" would have sounded in their ears.

But seriously, I put it to any reasonable person whether it is not cruel to force students into a study which, they believe, cannot ever be of the slightest possible advantage to them. No wonder that in such work they prefer their standing to be "rather below the average."

Yours faithfully,

W. H. TURNER.

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