

In her article on "What an Alumna can do for McMaster," published in another portion of this issue of *THE MONTHLY*, Miss Wells, of the Class of '94, refers to the College Settlement work of the graduates of Vassar, Wellesley, Smith, and other American colleges for women. The following poem, by Florence Earle Coates, will be interesting in this connection as well as for its intrinsic merit.

IN A COLLEGE SETTLEMENT.

The sights and sounds of the wretched street
Oppressed me, and I said: "We cheat
Our hearts with hope. Man, sunken, lies
In vice; and naught that's fair or sweet
Finds further favor in his eyes.

"Vainly we strive, in sanguine mood,
To elevate a savage brood"
Which, from the cradle, sordid, dull,
No longer has a wish for good,
Or craving for the beautiful."

I said; but chiding my despair,
My wiser friend just pointed where,
By some indifferent passer thrown
Upon a heap of ashes bare,
The loose leaves of a rose were sown.

And I, 'twixt tenderness and doubt,
Beheld, while pity grew devout,
A squalid and uneager child,
With careful fingers picking out
The scentless petals, dust-defiled.

And straight I seemed to see a close,
With hawthorn hedged and brier-rose;
And, bending down, I whispered, "Dear,
Come, let us fly, where no one knows,
To the country—far away from here!"

Upon the little world-worn face
There dawned a look of wistful grace,
Then came the question that for hours
Still followed me from place to place:
"Real country, where you can catch flowers?"

JOHN RUSKIN, the English art critic, once criticised in his fearless way a picture of a well-known painter, who was very much grieved at the effect. Later, on hearing of the sorrow he had caused, he wrote to the artist that he regretted that he could not speak more favorably of the picture, but hoped it would make no difference in their friendship. The artist, it is said, wrote in reply the following note: "Dear Ruskin: "Next time I meet you I shall knock you down, but I hope it will make no difference in our friendship."—*Argonaut.*