

## Correspondence.

Messrs. Editors :

HAVING become somewhat acquainted with London it has occurred to me that a short communication on matters connected with this great city would not be wholly uninteresting to your readers. If they will pardon the imperfections of a first draught I will take the present opportunity of placing it before them. Where the subject is so immense one scarcely knows at what point to begin; but, as if in conversation with friends, I shall commence with those subjects with which I have been most intimately connected, which therefore relate principally to a student's life.

I arrived in Glasgow after a pleasant voyage of ten days during which no seasickness marred our bliss, and set out two days after for London. It was night, when at the end of a ten-hour ride the guard unlocked the clumsy compartments into which English cars are divided, and set free the dozing travellers. Each rushes to the baggage car for his trunks, for here they know not the luxury of checks. By showing a porter a six-penny piece your trunk is miraculously transferred to the nearest cab, and you may think yourself happy if no other officials solicit remuneration for some alleged services. These fellows follow travellers about the station, like sutlers the camp, and protest that but for their valuable, though unseen, efforts some dire calamity would have befallen their luggage, and therefore "leave it to you, sir," how much shall be their reward. "Beware of pickpockets" is placarded all around; yes, but those who thrust their hands into your pockets are not the most dangerous characters.

Well the scene changes and it is morning. Your correspondent had been "buried (to accept Virgil's phrase) for many hours in a profound sleep," and he rose from the soft and luxurious feathers to obtain his first glimpse of London. How grand the sight that awaited him; the glories of the great city were all below him! A moment more and through the opened curtains he shall realize those wild dreams of youthful fancy; the splendors of the metropolis shall be drunk in by his intoxicated senses. His enthusiasm had reached its greatest flight, when with non-descript wardrobe pulling the curtain rudely aside, he gazed upon—full half a dozen chimnies dimly seen through the smoke and fog.

The stranger in London feels himself entirely alone. If hitherto he has been surrounded by many tried and loving

friends, now he has come to the Arctic region of frigidity. The tide of life ebbs and flows around him, he may be carried with the current but he is not of it. He is as the feather which the ocean waves toss at will. Streams of human beings pour into the heart of the city from the most distant quarters and by them he will be jostled in no polite manner as he institutes his search for lodgings. In this his great difficulty is not to discover, but to decide; and where one has only external appearances as a criterion, the task is not easy. In every second window are seen cards such as in days of yore the noted Mrs. Bardell exhibited, but to which of these "apartments for single gentlemen" shall one commit himself? My landlady in recommending the room in which I write declared that "the neighbourhood was aristocratic, the society superior, and her lodgers on the other flats of unblemished character." All this is worthy of the most careful attention by the student, especially since no lodger knows who lives in the next house, and those in the same house may never see one another. I am, however, within a few steps of Regent's Park, that extensive *rus in urbe*; and on the whole have fared well in other respects. While breakfast and tea can be obtained with lodgings, dinners are generally taken in the coffee-rooms with which the city abounds.—Lastly the cost of living is nearly double the rates at Acadia.

Having thus provided for "this gross organized body," which in the words of an eminent philosopher is "no part of ourselves," but which, notwithstanding, I have always observed to claim man's first attention, the student may proceed to regale the inner man. Near the station at which I landed and within a few minutes walk of the termini of three other railways, is that block of buildings known as University College—the chief of the many institutions which compose the University of London. All the buildings cover several acres; the College proper consists of a noble quadrangle, with a fine portico opening to the hall. The College Hall built by Donaldson in the Elizabethian style, faces another street; the University College School, the Hospital, the Medical and Law Rooms, occupy adjacent areas. None of the buildings possess that grace and elegance characteristic of American buildings, but are all built of grey stone with little ornamentation. The traits of the English mind are manifested in their architecture; strength and solidity, not beauty nor grace, are the primary objects. Buckingham Palace has as plain an exterior as University College. The College Library is an immense room, in which, from 9 to 5, students may study—any book imaginable being at their command. Opposite the Library is a circular room in

which are exhibited the casts and other works of interest by the great sculptor Flaxman. The entire number of students in attendance is nearly two thousand (2,000.) They come from every quarter of the globe—from Japan and India on the one hand, to Peru and Canada on the other. English, Scotch, French, Irish, Welsh, German, Italian, Hindoos, Japanese, &c., &c., mingle here in generous rivalry; and it may be well to add that the dusky Asiatics are among the ablest men. I may say, in passing, that as the students never see one another, only during class hours, a stranger is likely to remain a stranger. No club system of boarding brings the students together.

The college curriculum is very extensive. Besides the law and medical subjects it includes Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Pali and Buddhist, Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Telugu, Chinese, English, French, Italian, German; Comparative Grammar; History; Mathematics; Natural and Mechanical Philosophy; Moral Philosophy, Logic, Political Economy; Chemistry, Botany, Physiology, Zoology, Geology and Palaeontology.

The Professors are among the foremost men in England in their respective departments. I am grieved to say that one of the most illustrious of them, F. H. Key, M. A., F. R. S. Professor of Comparative Grammar died this morning. His philological researches have just been published, but he leaves unfinished a ponderous Latin Lexicon.

But I must not tarry long on the college where I spend eight hours daily. I soon found out many places of which I had often read. Through the endless variety of the principal streets I threaded my way, visiting the chief places of interest. But of the St. Pauls, the British Museum, the Tabernacle, the City Temple &c., I must write you again; at present I confine myself to Westminster Abbey in which, listening this evening to a lecture by Dr. Moffat, the African Missionary, I formed the determination of writing you.

The Abbey is on Westminster, which is further up the river than the city proper. The splendid Parliament Building separate it from the Thames. It was founded early in the seventh century by King Schat, and additions were made to it by the confessor, by Henry III, and by his successors down to the time of Henry VII, who attached to its eastern extremity a magnificent chapel as a royal burying place. The Abbey is built in the form of a Latin cross in the pointed style of architecture. The view of the interior especially from the west entrance is uncommonly grand. I had often read Addison's inimitable essay in which he describes himself when in a pensive mood walking in Westminster Abbey as