

THE ENGINEERS.

the good miner, and enthusiastically he related how great had been the festivities on this occasion; how the whole gallery had been decorated with lights and flowers and festoons; how a miner lad had played the guitar and sung; how the happy, genial Duke had drunk so many healths, and how many of the miners, and he himself especially, would be glad to sacrifice their lives for their beloved Duke and the whole House of Hanover. My deepest feelings are moved when I see this sentiment of loyalty expressed so simply and ingenuously. It is so beautiful a sentiment, and it is so thoroughly German. Other nations may be cleverer and wittier and more entertaining, but none is so true as the faithful German people. Did I not know that faithfulness is as old as the world, I would believe that it had found its birth in a German heart. German faithfulness! It is no modern adulatory flourish! At your courts, O German princes, should be sung over and over again the song of faithful Eckart and the wicked Burgundian. You have the most loyal subjects, and you are mistaken if you think the intelligent, faithful old dog has suddenly become mad, as is snapping at your heels.

Faithful as the German character the little miner's lamp had guided us silently and safely through the labyrinth of shafts and galleries. We climbed up out of the gloomy night of the mine, and the sun shed his glorious beams about us once more.

Most of the miners live in Klausthal and in the adjoining village of Zellerfeld. I visited several of these worthy people, had a glimpse at their domestic life, heard some of their songs, which they accompany on the guitar, their favorite instrument, listened to some of their old mountain stories, and heard them recite the prayers which they usually repeat together before descending into the darkness of the mine, and in many a good prayer have I joined with them. An old guide even thought that I ought to remain with them and become a miner, and when I persisted in leaving them he gave me a message to his brother who lived in the neighborhood of Gaslar, and many kisses for his dear niece.

Uneventful as the life of these people seems, it is by no means mere existence. The old trembling woman who sits behind the stove, opposite the great cupboard, has been sitting there a quarter of a century, and a quiet sympathy has certainly arisen between her thought and feeling and the corners of the stove and the carving of the cupboard. And cupboard and stove live, for a human being has imparted to them part of her own soul.

Only from such deep, intuitive feeling could have arisen the German fairy-tale, whose chief peculiarity is that not only animals and plants, but also, apparently, inanimate objects speak and act. To these gentle, innocent people, in the quiet retirement of their mountain cottages, has an insight been given to the hidden life of such objects; the latter have gained just the character one might expect—a strange mingling of capricious fancy and pure humanity.

—From Heine's "Harzreise."

EXCHANGES.

Among the heap of college journals with which the past week has piled the editorial table are noticeable: *Harvard Monthly*; *Western Maryland College Monthly*; *Yellow and Blue*, Ann Arbor; *Red and Blue*, University of Pennsylvania; *Colorado Collegian*, Colorado Springs; *Bowdoin Orient*, Brunswickian's *Central Ray*, University of Iowa; *Argus*, Philadelphia Manual Training School; *Hesperus*, Denver University, Colorado; and *College Times*, Upper Canada College, Toronto.

We gladly welcome to a place on our exchange list the *Howe Grammar School Topics*, of Lima, Indiana. Its editor-in-chief is Mr. Arthur P. Northwood, B.A., of the class of '91, and last year one of the editorial staff of THE VARSITY.

We congratulate our former *confrère* on the position he holds in the Hoosier State and on the very creditable journal that represents his school.

A mass meeting of the School of Science men was held on Wednesday last, in No. 2, for the purpose of discussing the question of the Engineers' dinner. The attendance, though not large, was sufficiently representative to go on with business, and after discussion, a committee was appointed to bring in a report at the next meeting of the Engineering Society. The dinner has now become an annual fixture, and this year the feeling among the students is as strong as ever in favor of it. It only remains now to appoint a good strong general committee to carry it on, and there is no doubt that the students will respond.

The continued fine weather has been a boon to the civil engineering men, as it has enabled them to complete a great number of their field operations. As a matter of fact the third year men are finished with their field-work for the season, having completed all the surveys and measurements for the railroad, which, be it known, is annually laid out, and on the point of construction across the ravines north of the Varsity. The second year men have almost completed their work; and as for the first year, who knows of their varied operations.

The first and second years took it upon themselves to grant a holiday on Friday last; perhaps they thought they had not had enough holidays and half-holidays already during the term; it would not be surprising if they agreed among themselves to take a whole week during this fine weather. The third year men thought better, however, and were well represented at lectures on Friday.

This time of the year seems to be in favor with graduates in visiting the College. We were much pleased to see Messrs. Pedder, '90, and Wiggins, '90, a few days ago. They had come down to write on the Provincial Surveyors' examinations. Mr. Pedder has for the last year been on the waterworks of Berlin, while Mr. Wiggins was employed on the Rainy River railroad, at Port Arthur.

There has recently been a large consignment of machinery received at the Laboratory. Conspicuous among the many is a "hundred ton testing machine," which is now being put together in the basement. The electrical apparatus is nearly all in and the "mechanicals" are busy in getting it arranged.

The apparatus for the new Mineralogical and Geological Laboratories has not yet arrived, and the fact is the cause of a great inconvenience to the Engineers. It will be remembered that last year a similar delay was caused by the renovation and repairing of the Laboratory, and the students are beginning to wonder if this is going to be an annual circumstance. Of course it may be maintained that the present delay is unavoidable; but why can not some arrangement be arrived at whereby the work could be gone on with. The second and third year Civils have a certain amount of work in practical mineralogy to cover, and by present indications they will not be able to do so, as it will likely be December before the work is started, and that means that a very little will be done this term, thus crowding all the work into the Easter term, which is well nigh impossible. Can not something be done whereby the task of getting in the apparatus may be hurried, or the work be gone on with immediately? Although we welcomed the addition of the new work in mining with great pleasure, yet we do not see that much will be accomplished this year if affairs run on as they do at present. It appears as if the Council of the School has been sadly neglecting this new department just when it needed the most attention.

Still another complaint—this in connection with the removal of the telephone from the janitor's room to the Library on the third floor. The Engineers do not object to the Library being supplied with a telephone, but they certainly do at being deprived of one for their own use. Perhaps the Council has economy before its vision.