

When Virgil tuned his pipe  
Under the beech's shade,  
He sung of harvests ripe,  
Of happy swains who played  
And danced in rustic measures,  
Of autumn's golden treasures  
Of wheat and wine and oil;  
And crowned with song their soil.

In song he yielded praise  
For the ripe fruits of earth  
Brought to a timely birth  
By kindly Fauns and Fays;  
And grateful thanks outpoured  
That autumn's yield was stored,  
That joy of Harvest-tide  
The gods had not denied.

This spirit of the season,  
In every age and clime  
By all men in all time,  
Has been obeyed in reason.  
This spirit we obey  
And so make holiday,  
Not with Bacchanalian riot  
But in holy calm and quiet.

Upon this festal mood,  
Let not a thought profane,  
Of bitter, cold disdain,  
For usage old intrude.  
Or in tempered revelry,  
Or in sweet humility,  
Let us clothe the living,  
Spirit of Thanksgiving.

R. C. Reade.



### The French Holiday Courses at McGill University

It was with some misgivings, prompted no doubt by an utter ignorance of that species of profitable vacation known as summer schools, as well as with considerable curiosity, that my voyage of discovery was begun in the early days of last July. A careful perusal of the proposed programme and other data en route did not tend to develop any budding enthusiasm, for to the timid and unsophisticated, the agreement to speak nothing but French for three weeks seemed to involve a vow of great solemnity. The first day of action, however, dispelled all such fears and apprehensions and ushered in an experience as ideal as was possible with so practical a goal of ambition as the acquisition of fluency in French. A large part of the enjoyment was, according to the unanimous verdict, due to the congeniality in aims and pursuits which existed among the students, and the value of which we fully realized when the session came to an end.

Of the thirty-five who attended the classes, only some half-dozen came from west of Montreal. The teaching profession was most largely represented in the total number, and included several teachers from the New England States. Fully half of the students lived in residence—more or less temporarily planned, but none the less beneficial in results. It may have been some idea of advantages in the way of moral atmosphere that led to the selection of theological colleges for

the purpose, but it must have been a novel experience for the colleges as well as for the students. Board was furnished at the handsome Women's Residence, the "Royal Victoria," where the "table talk" for which the cheerful board afforded opportunity was by no means the least important feature of the programme. A complete knowledge of the Frenchman's art of expressing his wants, not to mention vocabularies descriptive of food in its variety of phases, was the thing much to be desired of the student, and, generally speaking, attained by him after a course of many laughable mistakes.

As to the matter and manner of the studies themselves, a general outline must suffice. The work was arranged in two courses—Elementary and Advanced. The former consisted more particularly of practical work, such as phonetics, conversation classes, and exercises in translation. The Advanced Course was more literary in its character, and prescribed lectures on elocution, French history and literature, and social and political institutions, as well as exercise in practical work. These lectures were given entirely in French, in accordance with the principle underlying the whole scheme, that by hearing and speaking nothing but French, the student might undergo a process of saturation. In the Elementary Course, by a special act of grace, English was permitted in the way of explanations. At the end of the session an examination was held, consisting of both oral and written work, and the successful students were awarded diplomas according to their standing. A prize was also given in each course for the candidate obtaining the highest percentage.

The day's programme was outlined in strict accordance with the venerable maxim which preaches the reward of early rising. Breakfast at 7.30 at the "Royal Victoria" and the commencement of lectures in the Arts Building at 8 necessitated bird-like habits. The forenoon was devoted to lectures, which lasted from 8 till 1 at the latest, with half an hour intermission.

After a midday dinner, the next thing on the programme was something in the way of sight-seeing or walking abroad to take the air, all conversation, of course, being wholly in French. In this way we were able to see many of the beautiful and interesting sights of Montreal, and at the same time to glean much information from the discourses and remarks. The excursions included a variety of pleasures, ranging from visits to the different buildings in connection with McGill University, the Art Gallery, the Chateau de Ramezay, the La Presse offices, trips down the Rapids and to Riverside Park to join in the celebration of "La Prise de la Bastille," down to informal chats under the welcome shade of the trees on the college lawn when it was positively too hot to walk.

Every alternate evening we were treated to an illustrated lecture on some subject of literary or artistic interest given by some distinguished outsider. On the evenings not thus occupied we were allowed the use of the handsome and well equipped library of the University, where every accommodation was provided in the way of free access to books and rooms.

Among the lecturers were a number of outside men, in addition to the Modern Language staff of