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Of Greek and Latin Verse-Composition As a General Branch of Education.

BY THE REV. F. W. FARRAR, M.A., F.R.S.

(Concluded from our last.)

" . . . le triste rôle d'imitateurs, et celui non moins triste de créateurs de choses parfaitement inutiles."—NISARD, *Poètes de la Décadence*, i. 334.

IV. "But boys must be made to *produce* something original." *Argal*, they must write Latin verses! Will not a moment's consideration show to any one that such reasoning involves an immense *non sequitur*? By "producing something" is meant, I suppose, that boys must give evidence of having thought for themselves. Now, without stopping to prove that few things have less claim to be called original than the *crambe repetita* of ordinary Latin verse, or that few exercises involve less thought as distinguished from mere memory and skill, I will ask whether it is seriously asserted that we can get no better evidence of a boy's having thought for himself than the limping and pitiable feebleness of an average copy of Latin verses? Such an assertion would only provoke from most thinkers an exclamation of "*Spectatum admissi...?*" and would go far to prove that all that has been