

of Trustees is responsible, if this lamentable state of affairs exists in our schools. And now let us see if there is any real cause for complaint against the teachers. In the Roman Catholic schools religious instruction is a part of the daily work. Their clergymen hold the teachers responsible that it is duly performed; and that the duty is faithfully discharged, no one but the writer of "Boys of To-day" will deny. That the work is equally well done in the other schools, satisfactory proof can, I think, be obtained at the office of the Board of Trustees, where, I believe, the papers of a recent written examination on "Health, Morals and Manners," are still to be seen, and are of sufficient merit to prove that *daily* instruction in these subjects must have been imparted. I am afraid that the writer of "Boys of To-day" does not know what he is writing about, or else he is making wilful mistatements. In either case he falls rather below the "high standard of morality" to which he is so desirous that others shall attain.

By publishing this letter in your next issue of the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE you will confer a favor upon
A SUBSCRIBER.

"THE CASKETS."

MERCHANT OF VENICE.

Portia, a young lady who lived at Belmont, was bequeathed a large fortune at the death of her father. There was a condition, however, upon which the bequest was granted. It was enacted by the will that Portia, in order to receive the property, should marry the man who might choose the right one out of three caskets, made respectively of gold, silver, and lead.

Rumor spread this abroad, and, as a consequence there were many suitors for the hand of Portia, who was thus placed in the very delicate position of doing justice to all parties. The majority of the gentlemen who desired to marry her, she did not like at all, but there was one young man, Bassanio by name, upon whose suit she was disposed to look with favor. That the above is true we learn from her conversation with the maid Nerissa.

The character of each suitor was fully shown when the time arrived for making a choice of one of the three caskets. The Prince of Morocco, judging by the outward display of the golden casket, chose it. Great was his disappointment to find that he had chosen the wrong one, and lost Portia for his bride.

The Prince of Arragon having read the inscriptions, thought the casket made of silver most likely to be the proper one to choose. When he opened it the portrait of a blinking idiot met his gaze, and the scroll contained within the casket informed him of his failure to win Portia.

The next suitor was Bassanio. Portia feared that he should choose wrongly, and begged him to wait, if only for a short time, before making a choice. But he assured her that the suspense was so great that he wished to learn his fate. Accordingly Portia gave him the key to the leaden casket, which he chose in preference to the other two, with great joy; as she knew he had met with success. Bassanio, when he found that Portia was really to be his bride, was greatly over-joyed at his good fortune. The scene is brought to an end with the announcement that Nerissa, the maid of Portia, is to be married to Gratiano, a friend of Bassanio, who asked permission to have the ceremony performed on the same day that the wedding of Bassanio was to take place. Leave was granted, and uniting congratulations extended.

CLASSIFICATION OF INSECTS.

At this season of the year very little collecting can be done, as all the insects have either transformed or gone into their winter quarters. So the young entomologist must bestir himself to preserve and arrange the collection he has made in the last season. In a former paper I have given you some hints as to cases, and the preservation of the specimens, so, supposing that you are all prepared with material, we will now start on the work, which, unless you are a very apt student, will engross all your spare time this winter, namely, that of arranging your insects. For which purpose of classification seven great divisions are generally adopted by naturalists.

1. *Coleoptera*. Insects with jaws. Two thick wing covers, meeting in a straight line on top of the back, and two gauze-like wings folded transversely, such as the tiger beetles lady birds, (*Coccinelladae*) water beetles, etc.

2. *Orthoptera*. Insects with jaws, two opaque upper wings, and two large thin wings. Under this head would come grasshoppers, crickets cockroaches, etc.

3. *Hemiptera*. Insects with a horny beak for suction, with four wings, which lie flat and cross each other on the back. Under this head would come locusts, plant lice, bugs, etc.