

POETRY.

FATE.

O falacem spem—CICERO.

I TRACED my name on the shining sand
That skirted a silvery sea,
And a mariner, sailing from foreign land,
Read it, but never dreamed of the hand
That wrote unconsciously ;
And the rippling waves just kissed the strand
And blotted the name forever ;
And I, starting, woke from my visions grand
That were realized, ah, never.
A thoughtful boy deep carved his name
On a towering sea-cliff brow,
And resting his hand he dreamed of fame ;
Where is that dreamer now ?
'Ere the dream was ended, the storm came,
And the boy's bright hope and the solid rock
Were crumbled down 'neath the earthquake's shock.
A simple maiden, so young and fair,
Enshrined in her bosom of snow.
A lover's vow, and in love's bright glare
Unconscious all of the hidden snare,
She cherished the promise recorded there,
And with rapture her heart was aglow.
But the love proved false, and the vow a lie,
And she woke from her dream in agony.
Vain seem the brightest hopes we cherished,
Yet hopeless, all things else are vain,
O thou, whose earth-flowers all have perished,
In heaven will see them bloom again.

—ANON.

LITERARY.

HOME RULE IN IRELAND AND EDUCATION.

NO. III.

I COME now to the second part of the essay that was written to refute the statements that I made respecting the probable results of Parnell Home Rule on education. Here are more misstatements or fallacies which are unworthy of a man who professed to be well informed as to facts. Whether these misstatements are due to deplorable ignorance or inveterate prejudice, or both, I leave the readers to judge. The old calumny is repeated and reiterated that the Queen's Colleges and the Model Schools are "godless." At the same time we are told that the Queen's College, Belfast, is, to all intents and purposes, a Presbyterian institution. Presbyterians cannot but appreciate the compliment that is paid them when they are told that they have a College when they did not know that they had one, and more especially when that College of theirs is one of a set of godless Colleges. I hardly think, however, that they will be flat-

tered on the one hand, or annoyed on the other; flattered because a full equipped College is handed over to them, or annoyed because of the implication that they are a godless kind of people. A conclusion that is reached by such fallacious premises will neither tickle nor sting. A few statements of veracious history and fact may be necessary for residents on this side of the Atlantic, so that they may see the real nature of that monster which is alleged to be at once both Presbyterian and godless. As to the Presbyterian side of Queen's College, Belfast, a majority of the students has been and is of that denomination, the President has always been and is now a Presbyterian, and possibly about a third of the Professors may be Presbyterian—very likely less than that. Beyond what has been stated its Presbyterianism does not go. All appointments are in the hands of the Government of the day, and I regret to say that Presbyterians have never figured largely among the men who have been on the Councils of the Empire. It is well known that the Senate of the University with which the Colleges are affiliated is composed of men half of whom are Roman Catholics, and one-half of the remainder are Presbyterians, and sometimes hardly that. The Professors, before they enter on the duties of their office, have to sign a declaration binding themselves not to teach within the walls of the College anything that would give offence to the religious feelings of any denomination of Her Majesty's subjects. That disposes sufficiently of the assertion that the Belfast College is, to all intents and purposes, a Presbyterian institution. As to the "godless" side, it would be necessary to know what the writer means by the word. As that cannot be ascertained until we hear from him again, let me tell the people of Canada what is done, what has always been done, that the mouths of calumniators might be stopped; but they are not stopped, as all see. In each College there is appointed by Government a clergyman of each religious denomination, whose duty it is to look after the religious instruction of the students. I have before me the names of the clergymen who officiate in the College at Belfast, and the same rule holds good in the other Colleges. The title by which these clergymen are known is that of Dean of Residence. A similar arrangement prevails in the Model Schools. That is to say a clergyman from each denomination meets with the children weekly, or oftener, to read the Scriptures and to teach the catechism, if he pleases, of the body to which he belongs. If these are godless marks of an institution, there are many of us that think the colleges and schools of Canada would be none the worse but the better were they more godless than they are in the direction indicated. Furthermore, the godlessness or the godliness of an educational institution may be judged by its fruits. It goes without saying that a large proportion of the present ministers of the Presbyterian Church have had their training in the national schools and the Queen's Colleges. How then does the present generation compare with the previous generations, in piety, in orthodoxy of belief, and