

And then when it comes to study of literature, perhaps if we have aimed teaching chiefly at reality and simplicity, this study may become of more use than often it seems to be now. The two lessons to be learnt, are they not frank confessions of what one likes or does not like, *plus* suspension of judgment, and submission to opinions, even if you make no pretence to adopt them. Liberty and order, in fact, again: this everlasting problem. But liberty first, if possible. Do not suppress or even touch with the lightest finger of reproof particular signs of individuality—a sign, for instance, so good as the confession in the middle of an essay that the preceding part had been conventional repetition of opinions in which the writer did not believe. That should soften the severest confessor.

Mr. Hill divides his book into five parts—of which the first three seem the best—English in Schools; English in Colleges; English in Newspapers and novels; English in the Pulpit; Colloquial English.

Cannot even writers of books on English force the printers of the new world to say *wo-men*, not *wom-en*, and *know-ledge*, not *knowl-edge*? In these meaningless forms, the printers may *know* themselves to be right, but the writers must know them to be wrong, as do *know* the suffering readers, men and wo-men.

W. F. STOCKLEY.

Fresdeneton, N. B.

For the REVIEW

English Literature in the School.

An interesting experiment in teaching English literature, which might be suggestive to some readers of the REVIEW, was recently made in the English department of the New Glasgow High School, under the care of Miss Nettie Forbes, B.A. On Longfellow's birthday, which REVIEW readers will remember falls on the 27th of February, lessons were thrown aside in the classes of each year and a "Longfellow celebration" was held. A few numbers selected from the programme carried out in the junior class will best explain what that meant. Thus, among the papers read were a "Sketch of Longfellow's Life" and a "Sketch of Evangeline." Then interspersed with these were quotations given by the pupils, the initial letters of which would spell "Henry Wadsworth Longfellow;" readings and recitations, the poet's "First Poem," "Last Poem," "The Abbot's Soliloquy," "The Clock on the Stairs," and about the middle of the hour a song and chorus—"Excelsior." Somewhat similar programmes were carried out in each of the other years. On the blackboards surrounding the room one pupil had drawn a sketch of Longfellow's residence in Cambridge, and others had

printed appropriate mottoes in colored chalk. The "celebration" was a great success. The students took up the idea with enthusiasm, and it is safe to add that they carried away a deeper appreciation of Longfellow from this little break in the routine of class-work than they would have acquired by hours spent in monotonous recitation.

NEW GLASGOW.

Selected by Ladies' Auxiliary Committee S. P. C. A.]

Guardian Birds.

The RED-BEAKED OX-BITER (Rhinoceros Bird)

If we go into the African jungle we come upon an ungainly and savage brute guarded with much care and jealousy by an attractive little bird. These are the rhinoceros and his faithful attendant the red beaked ox-biter, more popularly known as the rhinoceros bird. These birds which belong to the great raven family are, to use Gordon Cumming's words, "the best friends the rhinoceros has." They cling to him through good and evil report, watch over him by day and perch upon him by night; never leaving him—in fact as long as he has a tick to his hide. *Ticks*, which infest the forests of most parts of the earth and are particularly painful and enterprising in Africa, cause the most exquisite agony to the rhinoceros, hippopotamus and elephant, notwithstanding the seeming protection of their very thick skin. The beak of the ox-biter is so constructed as to render the extraction of a deeply embedded tick only a pleasantly difficult task. The ungainly recipient of the bird's attentions is duly grateful, and never, even when suffering great pain, from the probing beak, offers any remonstrance, but rather shows by the liberties it permits the implicit confidence it reposes in its attendants. He is not content to extract the parasites from the easy and conspicuous spots, but hops with great care all over his huge charge, now thrusting his inquisitive beak into this ear, now hopping over the head and inspecting the other, now examining the corners of the mouth, and next wisely seeing that the region of the eyes is safe. Nor do they limit their duties to parasite inspection. They watch over his slumbers and warn him by vociferous crying of the approach of an enemy, and when noise fails to arouse him they fly at his face and flap it with their wings.

This bird is found only in Central Africa, but there is in South Africa, a near relative known as the African ox-biter, which performs very much the same office in its own territory."—John R. Coryell in *Harper's Magazine*, 1884.