

be read at the celebration of Bryant's birthday was a model of simplicity in the expression of feeling. It was brief, and at another time would have been written and revised in a half a day; but in his enfeebled condition it was with the utmost difficulty that he could satisfy himself. He worked at it patiently day after day, until his labor became a pain; nevertheless, he continued, and won what he deserved—the applause of men practised in his art who were there to listen and appreciate.

—Free text-books are now furnished to many schools. The problem that troubles most boards of education in cities that have adopted the system is how to control the supply and keep the expense within reasonable bounds. One city has a plan that seems to solve the difficulty. A principal who wants a supply is asked to fill out a prescribed order form. The janitor takes it to the office of the board of education, where the order is filled and a receipt taken for the books. During the last two years 200,000 volumes have been issued. Only a few hundred have been returned for repair. For malicious or unnecessary damage a fine is imposed upon the pupil, ranging from one cent up to the full value of the book. On the inside of each one a record blank is pasted on which each fine must be entered. Considering the wear and tear the books are subjected to, the damage is relatively light and the percentage of malicious damage is very small. A text-book's usefulness is not really at an end until there is not a perfect leaf left, as the whole sheets are used to fill up gaps in other damaged books which are sent to the binder to be restitched and, if necessary, re-covered or the cover may only need a little fixing. The work costs from 10 to 35 cents. It is said that exclusive of the high school catalogue the supply list includes 130 different text-books. Of these 40 are readers of various grades and issued by different publishing houses. The board's office stock comprises from 3,000 to 4,000 volumes, not including drawing books, maps, etc.

—The free text-book plan has now been pretty generally adopted in some places. In Canada also there seems to be many towns ready to adopt it. Toronto, which often takes the lead in matters relating to educational advancement, has tried it for some time and is well satisfied with it. The cost to the city for books during 1894 amounted to \$8,900, thus averaging about 30 cents a pupil for the year. The books are frequently examined by officers in the employment of the school board and the pupils are held responsible for loss or damage to them. The responsibility and supervision certainly have great value