

the old heathen verse, but the exact contradiction of the original, converting the anxious doubts of the Pagan Emperor into the certain faith of the Christian Saint. It is an extremely beautiful poem, familiar to many of us from early boyhood, rising high both in thought and diction, and unquestionably the work of Pope. Its literary history is also as curious as its beauty is great; and those who care to peruse that history, and in it to see an instance of Pope's disregard of truth, when he thought that truth was an obstacle to fame, may read the details in the acute and careful criticism on it by Mr. Courthope in the fourth volume of his edition of Pope's works."

Lord Carnarvon then proceeds to discuss the question as to the mode in which the task of translating Latin or Greek verse into English should be undertaken, whether we are to adhere as closely as language will permit to the original, or may assume some license "in order to catch its spirit without too strict a regard to its actual terms. In view of the difficulty of reproducing in our more diffuse English the extreme terseness and condensation of the classics, and the failure of even some of our greatest poets in their attempts at literal renderings into English poetry, he prefers the latter, questionable or dangerous as some may consider it, and concludes as follows:—

"But my theme is so tempting that I am in danger of exceeding the limits which I prescribed to myself in commencing this paper. I will, therefore, endeavor to fortify my opinion of the spirit in which such a translation as this should be approached by enrolling myself, for the occasion, in the obscure and shadowy crowd of imitators and translators—whose names I do not record, and who, like the poor ghosts in Hades, watch from a distance, but do not mingle with, the greater spirits who maintain the semblance of their ancient state even in the world below—and I will venture upon one more rendering of the Imperial versifier's lines. However imperfect the execution may be, it is the only mode of illustrating the idea which I have sought to express; and without further excuses or disclaimers, I will conclude these observations by preferring to the editors of the *National Review* the request which Pope, when writing on this very subject, made to the *Spectator* nearly two centuries ago, in No. 532 of that delightful periodical: "If you think me right in my notions of the last words of Hadrian, be pleased to insert this; if not, to suppress it."

Wandering, fleeting life of mine,
Spirit human, or divine;
Partner, friend, and closest mate,
Of this earthly, fleshly state;
Gentle Sprite, mysterious thing,
Whither now art taking wing?
Into realms of bliss or woe?
Place of loneliness or fear?
Whither, Spirit, dost thou go—
Somewhere, nowhere, far or near?

Yes—thou goest, Spirit—yes,
In 'hy paleness—nakedness—
Mirth is banished,
Jest hath vanished,
Into gloom and dreariness.

Question Drawer.

QUESTIONS.

I. When do the changes made in the Public School Law during the last session of the Legislature, come in force?

II. With regard to the subject "Orthography and Orthoepy," what are limitations of the requirements for entrance candidates?

III. Is it compulsory that entrance candidates should place their

drawing books in the hands of the presiding examiner? and is it necessary that they show three month's work?

IV. How is the underlined word in the following sentence parsed?

I lost that book of mine.

A TEACHER.

In your JOURNAL of April 16th there appeared in the 25th question this: "At \$2 a standard."

Please explain the meaning of "a standard" and oblige,
W. S. H.

I would like to get an explanation of the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } a &= b \\ \text{then } a^2 &= ab \\ \text{and } a^2 - b^2 &= ab - b^2 \\ \therefore a + b &= b. \end{aligned}$$

BEGINNER.

ANSWERS.

A TEACHER.—I. We suppose they are already in force. No date is fixed by the bill.

II. "The pronunciation, the syllabification, and the spelling from dictation of words in common use. The correction of words improperly spelt or pronounced. The distinction between words in common use in regard to spelling, pronunciation and meaning." We cannot be more definite than the above official "Instructions." Every teacher, we suppose, has to judge for himself what are "words in common use."

III. Yes. Yes. So the "Instructions" say. See answer to question in last number.

For the mutual interest and profit of teachers as well as for want of time we leave all practical questions to be answered by correspondents.

Literary Review.

Promptly at the promised date May 1st, The CENTURY MAGAZINE for May, is on our table. This number contains several additional contributions to the literature of the civil war, amongst them Gen. Joseph E. Johnson's reply to Jefferson Davis, entitled "Manassas to Seven Pines," including descriptions of the battles of Bull Run, and Seven Pines, and "The Second Day at Seven Pines" by Gen. Gustavus W. Smith. "Immortality and Modern Thought" by T. S. Munger, is a suggestive and able paper on one of the greatest of great questions. Amongst the practical pieces "Broken Wings" by C. P. Cranch, is a touching tribute song, to remembered bards who "fell in youth with broken wing." Well engrav'd portraits of Generals McLellan, Grant, Lee, Johnston and many other leaders in the civil war adorn the pages of what is on the whole a strong number of this popular Magazine.

TALKS WITH MY BOYS, by William A. Mowry. For twenty years Senior Principal of the English and Classical School, Providence, R. I. Boston; New England Publishing Co. 75 cts.

This little volume the author tells us, has grown out of the practical necessities of the School-room. We have read some of the talks and find them bright and pleasing in style, and strong in sound doctrine, and high moral purpose. It is such a volume as cannot fail to bring more or less of helpful suggestion and inspiration to every earnest teacher who reads it.

UNDER THE OLD ELM AND OTHER POEMS, by James Russell Lowell, with Notes and a Biographical Sketch. This little work, constituting number Fifteen of the "Riverside Literature Series," published by Houghton, Mifflin and Co., Boston, presents in a very handy and readable form for fifteen cents, several of the best productions of the gifted author.

The ANDOVER REVIEW for May, has the following Table of Contents, *Reformation Theology*, Professor E. V. Gerhart; *Social Problems in the Pulpit*, Newman Smyth D.D.; *Co-operative Creation*, Rev. F. H. Johnson; *What May Justly be Demanded of the Public Schools*, S. T. Dutton; *Editorial, Theological and Religious Intelligence* etc. This able review stands in the very front rank of theological Magazines. It is scholarly, thoughtful and liberal, in its treatment of the great religious questions of the day.