

## FRAGMENTS AND FANCIES.

## III

"Ye lazy philosophers—self-seeking  
men—  
Ye fireside philanthropists, great  
with the pen."

GERALD GRIFFIN.

**O**F all the evidences of modern interest and unreason the nineteenth century magazine is perhaps the most striking and the most widespread. And among modern magazines the *Cosmopolitan* hold a sad pre-eminence as a disturbing and revolutionizing factor. If it be true that there is nothing so absurd, but has been upheld by some "lazy philosopher," it is equally certain that the wildest nonsense and the emptiest nothings of these "fireside philanthropists" are sure to find an honored place and thousands of gaping readers in the pages of the *Cosmopolitan*. The fact that the *Cosmopolitan* is owned and edited by a Catholic must not lead anyone to believe that Mr. John Brisben holds his magazine within the line of Catholic doctrine, Catholic opinion or Catholic decency. As was said of an eminent thinker: "He is a Catholic and a philosopher, but he is not a Catholic philosopher," so it might be truly asserted of Mr. Walker: "He is a Catholic and editor, but he is not a Catholic editor." Where there is a question of dollars and cents, or of sensationalism in literature, which in our days is much the same thing, Mr. Walker's principles are of the "good God, good devil" variety.

As may be inferred, the *Cosmopolitan* is nothing if not iconoclastic. It has no regard for the wisdom of our forefathers. The idolatrous images of a dead and worthless past must make place for the artistic and highly-colored daubs of an arrogant present. The spirit of the *Cosmopolitan* is in direct contradiction with what Burke would call "the generosity and dignity of thinking of the fourteenth century." It has an insatiable craving for the new and experimental as against the old and tried. And so we have been startled by the projected Cosmopolitan University. It is—or was, for though it never existed, yet it is a thing of the past—designed to revolutionize educational system and methods. Its professors were to be unlike, in aims and principles and culture, all professors the world has so far known; its students would form almost a new species in creation; they would bear no resemblance to anything that exists on the earth or in the air or in the waters under the earth.

To prepare the way for the Cosmopolitan University, the Cosmopolitan Magazine has been publishing a series of articles on "Modern College Education." The question has been asked on each occasion, "Does it educate?" and though the answers have been as varied as the writers, they have agreed on that point—modern college education does not educate. It is very thoughtful of the Cosmopolitan thus to enlighten