

education of the University matriculation and the High School Junior Leaving examinations; and secondly—partly in order to this—the raising of the standard of University matriculation. Most thoughtful persons, who have given attention to the questions connected with secondary and higher education, will readily admit that the unification of these two sets of examinations is in every way desirable. In fact, if we mistake not, many supposed that one of the chief objects of the changes which resulted in the establishment of the Junior and Senior Leaving examinations, as we now have them, was that this unification might be made possible, and will be disappointed to learn how far this aim is still from having been reached. We ourselves advocated the establishment of the High School and Collegiate Institute examinations mainly because of the great saving of time and labour, both to the High School masters and to the University professors, which we hoped for as an outcome of the change.

Mr. Seath points out that this unification is under present circumstances unattainable because, first, the standards of the two examinations are different, and second, the subjects are different. Those of our readers who may not have studied the minutiae of these matters may, perhaps, be surprised to learn that the standard set by the Education Department for the Junior Leaving examination, is considerably higher than that set by the University authorities for the matriculation examination, the former requiring from candidates thirty-three and one-third per cent. on each paper, and fifty per cent. of the total; the latter only twenty-five per cent. on each paper and forty per cent. of the total. As the former requirement is not unreasonably high, it is not strange that Mr. Seath advocates a levelling up by the Universities, rather than a levelling down by the Education Department. And surely any educator whose ideas of thoroughness are at all high will agree with us that when a student fails to secure at least one-third of the possible marks in each subject in which he is supposed to be specially prepared, and one-half of the total of marks in all the subjects combined, there must be something seriously wrong either with the student or with the examiner, or with both. At the same time it should not be forgotten that this matter of giving marks in written examinations is very far from having been reduced to an exact science, and that the number of marks gained can never be accepted as an infallible gauge of a candidate's abilities or acquirements. It is, indeed, easily possible that the better prepared student may often take the smaller number of marks, and that it may require a higher degree of proficiency to take thirty-three and one-third per cent. of the maximum number of marks with one examiner, than to take the fifty per cent. with another. We make the remark, not as by any means making any insinuation in regard to the cases under consideration, but simply to guard against the danger of dealing with these percentages as if they were results reached with mathematical precision, instead of figures liable to be largely affected by the incomputable personal elements in every examination.

Without entering upon an analysis of the scheme which Mr. Seath has wrought out with considerable care, to show how the task of assimilating the subjects of the two examinations may be performed, we may simply say that it seems to us that nothing but an utterly indefensible notion in regard to the true nature and ends of University education can make it very difficult to effect such assimilation. Believing as we do, that the chief, if not the only legitimate, reason-for-being of any matriculation examination is the test it applies to determine the ability of the student to do the work of the classes which he proposes to enter; believing also that the Professor's own tests in the lecture-room are after all the best and only reliable gauge of such ability, we can see no valid objection to effecting the unification desired in the most effective manner possible, by simply having the Universities do away with the matriculation examination so far as it relates to High School pupils and accepts the result of the Leaving examination in their stead. An agreement would of course still be necessary in regard to the subjects, and Mr. Seath's scheme would afford a valuable basis for the discussion of this question. In any case the existence of the double system is an anomaly and a waste of energy which our educators should be wise enough to avoid.

Principal Grant, of Queen's University, has made, in the last number of the *Educational Journal*, in which Mr. Seath's paper first appeared, a valuable contribution to the discussion. While approving of many of Mr. Seath's suggestions, Dr. Grant takes a serious exception to his

views on one or two points. He, in particular, objects most strenuously to the proposal to do away with the supplemental examination in September. He, moreover, repudiates Mr. Seath's representation of this supplemental as presenting a lower standard, or affording an easier entrance into the Universities, than the July examination. We have not space to give fully Dr. Grant's reasons for holding to the September supplementals as indispensable in the interests of higher education. The convenience of students coming from a distance and from other countries, also the peculiar circumstances of many in our own land, may be mentioned. As a matter of fact, we have little doubt that an analysis would show that the students who have entered at these supplementals have proved themselves in the end not one whit inferior, on the average, to those entering in July. Still it may be asked why should matriculation be insisted on in such cases? Why not admit the students freely without it, and if they prove equal to the year's work, and successful in passing its examinations, give them full standing at the end of the year? This is, in fact, the course pursued, if we mistake not, in most of our Universities at present, and we are not aware that it is attended with any evil results. With many educators, we should be prepared to go further and affirm that the matriculation examination should in no case be made a barrier to deprive any student of the privileges of the University, provided only that he shows himself able to profit by them. Of course each University will place its distinctive hall-marks upon those only who have stood its tests and satisfied its requirements.

TWO SONNETS OF PETRARCH.

QUAL DONNA ATTENDE.

WHAT maid is she that seeks the noble praise
Of wisdom, strength, and stately courtesy?
Let her upon that lady pin her gaze
The world calls mine, my gentle enemy.
Mark here how love to God and honour grow,
How purity goes hand in hand with grace,
Here learn the path to that far Heaven to trace,
Which seals her for its own while here below.
The language lovelier far than mortal speech,
The silence yet more lovely, the pure ways
Unspeakable, undreamed of human heart,
These thou mayest learn, but none can teach
The infinite beauty, dazzling with its rays,
For this is God's rich gift, nor comes by art.

DUE GRAN NEMICHE.

Beauty and Purity, once deadly foes,
Were joined in bands of peace and harmony
And dwelt within her spirit's sanctuary
Unmolested by storms in undisturbed repose.
Now Death has cut the ties which bound them close,
And one in Heaven shines most gloriously,
And one lies underground: the earth doth lie
On those fair eyes, whose fire no longer glows.
The kindly deed, the language sweet and soft
By noble thoughts inspired, the gentle glance
Which soothed my spirit, I recall them oft
These all are gone, and if I still delay
I linger in the hope that thus perchance
Her name may shine the brighter for my lay.

LOIS SAUNDERS.

THE ARCHIC MAN—I.

MADAME LALAGE was in the Speaker's Gallery when Mr. Taylor asked whether it was the intention of the Government to erect a statue to Sir John Macdonald, and she beckoned to Helpsam who, as he passed my seat, said, "Our fair philosophic friend wants to speak to you."

Up we both went, and after an interchange of small talk, the lady asked if we could not walk round the grounds with her, and show her where the statue would be placed. We walked westward and looked critically at the statue of Cartier, and declared unanimously that the sculptor had made him too tall, and that the pedestal was squalid, and one of the three expressed the hope that the monument to Sir John Macdonald would have an artistic pedestal.

Madame Lalage: "O, yes! of course there should be an artistic pedestal, as expressive as the shield of Achilles. Here we should have the C. P. R.—Sir John's true monument after all; there, the Statesman receiving a deputation; the deputation departing well pleased; coming again after twelve months with a suspicion that they had been humbugged; again received and again sent away happy. There we should have him surrounded by his friends, and they roaring laughing at his stories; and there——"

Here she was interrupted by the appearance of McKnom, his long hair and beard somewhat greyer than in 1890, but his blue eye as bright as ever, and he showed us letters from the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Tennyson, and other eminent persons, all endorsing his scheme for a universal reciprocity treaty, under which the

world would be made millennially happy, the Jews be restored to Palestine, the lion eat straw like the ox, and Baron Rothschild take a quarter section on the right bank of the Jordan and become, as he grew wheat, planted vineyards and cultivated the olive, an Israelite indeed.

"We were talking," I said, "about Sir John's monument. Let us walk round and look at the site."

"Yes," said Madame Lalage, "that is the best place," as we halted at the eastern wing of the main building.

"He was," said McKnom, "a true archic man."

"What," asked Helpsam—"is an archic man?"

"The archic man,"—cried McKnom—"is——"

"Stay," said Madame Lalage—"the young ladies are beckoning to me. I must join them—but will you come and dine with me on Saturday next? Glaucus and his wife will be with us—and Mr. McKnom will tell us all about the archic man."

This was agreed, and having seen the lady to her carriage, Helpsam and I returned to the House, which was stiflingly hot.

On Saturday I found McKnom, Helpsam, Glaucus, Mr. and Mrs. Lalage, Gwendolen and Irene in the drawing-room, and having made my apologies for being a few minutes late, we all went to dinner, Madame Lalage on my arm.

"I am," said McKnom, "extremely partial to oxtail soup," as he laid his spoon in his plate.

"It is," said I, "a peculiarity of my own when I am hungry, which is a recurring weakness I have never been able to shake wholly off."

"But," said Madame Lalage, "what about the archic man?"

"The archic man!" exclaimed Irene. "I never heard of him. What constituency does he represent?"

"He is," said Glaucus, "a myth. The world is ruled by general laws, socially, morally, as well as materially—but the ordinary mind personifies the laws it cannot grasp—and attributes to some person or persons a train of events, the obscure and complex causes of which its faculty of analysis has not the eye to see, nor the hand to seize."

McKnom: "Away," he cried, "with your shallow philosophy. I believe in man because I believe in God—and because I believe in the Supreme Ruler I believe in the archic man. Each individual is a Kosmos, a world, a universe in himself. Even the imagination of Shakespeare cowers before the majesty and complexity of man. There are combined in each one of us the qualities of a large number of animals, together with qualities no other animal possesses. Although human nature is always the same, yet so wonderful is it—greatness, wisdom, nobleness, heroism, meanness, blindness, treachery, pig-wallowing filth, with a mass of other shining and loathsome things all jumbled together—that there exists among men the most extraordinary diversity, morally, intellectually, and even physically. One will rise to a moral grandeur which places him only very little lower than the angels; another sinks so low that a wolf compared with him is respectable. The gulf which divides men intellectually is not to be spanned. And as each animal is specially adapted to do certain things, first to secure its existence, and secondly in many cases to make it useful to the lord of this lower world, we see the law of division of labour manifesting itself in mankind in the clearest and most striking way. One man is fitted by his genius to be a poet, another a mechanic, another an architect, another an artist, another an orator; one is a moralist to teach; another is a humorist to amuse and soften the cares of life. Among those creatures which live in communities we mark a fine instinct of government, of the importance of rule and the virtue of obedience; the bees have a queen to regulate their highly civic state, and if they lose her, they proceed to manufacture one out of the dormant pupæ which are stored away for such a need. In the Queen it is certain there is a quality besides the capacity for maternity—the quality of a ruler. Illustrations might be multiplied. Enough has been said to justify the inference that the wise power to Whom order is clearly so dear would, when providing for human society, took care that some men should be endowed with a special capacity for rule—the power of governing, that which renders them born leaders, as we say; archic men."

Gwendolen: "The archic bee is clearly of our sex."

McKnom: "Pardon. We know that this is so. All history teaches it. The observation covered by a brief arc of life is sufficient to suggest and enforce the truth, nor would it be other than idle to ask the question—is there the archic man in the same way as there is the born poet, artist, mechanic, mathematician, were it not that in recent times a contrary doctrine has been preached?"

Glaucus: "The wire puller has strangled your archic man."

McKnom: "Yes; we have been told that the day of the ruler of men is gone; that the great man is extinct; that myrmidons have it all their own way, and some will ask is their kudos any longer in the honours the multitude bestow? What can self-respect care for popular votes, ovations, banquets, articles filled with praise in newspapers? Have we not heard and seen eulogies which read like profoundest irony, and witnessed serious receptions and addresses which would have been amusing if one did not fondly cling to a residuum of reverence for the race? The great man is played out, it is said; he belongs to an extinct species; you will find him in historical museums; the modern world is for the dwarfs who understand the power of organization and the charm of safe bribes; the mountains have been blown up