

literary growth at its present stage of development by the false teaching, or narrowing conceptions of an incompetent instructor are not to be disparagingly estimated. This view of the question, too, should not be omitted when Corporation takes up the proposition for consideration and decision.

#### VERSIFICATION.

It is constantly stated as uncontrovertible that every educated man should be able to write verse. It is not uncommon to read in a review of some volume of "Poetry" several lines of no high excellence quoted with the remark that "this is the sort of stuff which any educated man could write by the yard." One may be tempted to compare "any educated man" with Macaulay's "school-boy" who is such a storehouse of general information, and perhaps the word *educated* requires definition in this case, for certainly there are cases of men who would not be best pleased to be called uneducated, who would find breaking stones on the road as congenial a pastime as writing verses. But still it cannot be denied that education is a considerable help to writing verses—not an education in book-keeping and shorthand, but the higher education, as it is generally considered, of civilized literature, or as it runs in Latin *Litterae Humaniores*. Some years ago this was the only branch of learning which could entitle a man to be called educated, but nowadays, well—*Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. Poetry is of course a different matter altogether, quite distinct from versification, and writing rimes does not make the poet, as Horace is good enough to inform the gentlemen of the third year; but rime is often a more convenient and terse way of expressing a sentiment than prose, and people will at times "drop into it, like the immortal dustman. In the matter of writing Poetry—if you want to do so—there is only one rule: get some thought or scene, and tell it as truly as possible; but whether the result will be poetry or prose, is a case of "nascitur non fit." On the method of doing this Aristotle has written a little handbook, for budding dramatists mainly; and Lewis Carroll has some lines which are such a delightful caricature of some authors' style that they are worth quoting. (The piece is called "Poeta fit non nascitur.")

"Next when you are describing  
A shape, or sound, or tint;  
Don't state the matter plainly,  
But put it in a hint;  
And learn to look at all things  
With a sort of mental squint."

"For instance, if I wished, sir,  
Of mutton-pies to tell,  
Should I say 'dreams of fleecy flocks  
Pent in a wheaten cell'?"

"Why, yes," the old man said, "that phrase  
Would answer very well."

There is, however, a smaller matter which any one can compass with a little care, and that is the regularity of the rhythm in verses. One cannot exactly talk about "scanning" English verse as one can Latin, because the English does not run in feet, since the syllables have not invariable length or shortness, but the line has a certain number of stresses in it, and between these as many other syllables as the ear will allow. As a matter of fact a "long syllable" does not seem the same to us as to a Latin or Greek. To them it meant one which took a longer time in pronouncing than the short one—two beats to one in music—and that regardless of where the accent fell. To us it means simply a syllable on which we put an accent; so that almost any syllable can have the stress on it, but unless they are such as have a natural accent on them the effect is bad, as in the following line taken from an "effusion" in the *Mail and Empire*, of Jan. 23rd:—

"To their own very great dismay and undoing."  
Now it would be difficult to assign any known metre to this line when looked at all by itself, but, as it occurs in the effusion, it is seen to be the last line of a stanza to the tune of Kipling's "Danny Deever," so that it has to be read thus:—

"To their own very great dismay and undoing."  
An equally bad effect is produced by putting between the

At last there seems to be some prospect of getting relief, to be sure it is like the mirage to the wanderer in the desert, promising sweetness and refreshing after an arid waste, but a drowning man will grasp at even straws, and why not the poor souls who fain would soar on melody, but cannot by reason of the Chapel choir. Corporation will be asked to pass a statute at its next meeting, empowering the Precentor to count each choir practice as a chapel. There seems to be everything in favour of the plan. It is not a new one by any means, and has been mooted before, without taking such definite shape. When a man is asked to go to Chapel for half an hour in the afternoon, for the purpose of being drilled in trills and quavers for solemn, affecting Gregorians, or more modern melodious airs, he thinks he is doing an heroic action, a thing which Stevenson says a hero does because he likes it. We fancy the choir must do so from a feeling of bravado, and a love of danger. Yes, they probably like it. But there are some few who don't. Not of the choir, of course. Should the enactment be carried, as THE REVIEW, in the name of the College, hopes it will, there is one danger which we venture to point out should be carefully guarded against. If the practice is counted as a chapel, as is proposed (provided the chapel belonging to it is also attended) there is danger of there being a terrific rush for the choir and we will be no better off than we were before. If we might be allowed, in conclusion, to suggest to the philanthropists who are carrying out the good work an infallible means of bringing to pass the desired statute, we would recommend a few compulsory Sunday-morning chapels for a sufficient number of the members of Corporation to ensure a majority.

#### CHURCH FUNDS ARBITRATION.

It will be remembered that the question of a proper disposal of a balance of \$12,432 in dispute between the Anglican synods of Ontario and Ottawa (due to the recent division of the former diocese of Ontario), was argued in Toronto on February 4th last before Mr. J. A. Worrell, Q.C., who was lately appointed chancellor of the diocese of Toronto in succession to the Hon. Edward Blake. Chancellor Worrell was selected by the opposing synods in June, last as sole arbitrator, his decision to be final. Half the sum in dispute was claimed by the Ottawa diocese as part of the clergy trust fund, and also on other grounds; while Ontario diocese claimed the whole under the terms of the original trusts.

The sum in dispute is the only open question between the two dioceses, which have already amicably divided an endowment amounting to nearly half a million dollars.

The evidence taken in Toronto was wholly documentary. The argument lasted all day, the synod of Ontario being represented by its chancellor, Dr. Walkem, Q.C., while Mr. Travers Lewis, chancellor of Ottawa, argued the case for his diocese. Judgment was reserved. Rural Dean Bogert, of Ottawa, was present during the proceedings, and rendered material assistance.

Chancellor Worrell has now made his award, which is largely favourable to the Ottawa synod. Of the \$12,432 in question, the award directs that \$3,632 be now equally divided; that, during the incumbency of the present archbishop, Ontario diocese should retain \$5,765, and that afterwards this sum should be also equally divided; and that Ontario should retain the balance of \$3,024 under the original trust. Ottawa diocese thus gets \$4,704.—*Ex.*