

of it abroad; hence these notes to illustrate *scientific* English literature, as compared with ordinary notes, parsing, etc.

The members of the class this year numbered one hundred and six. Robert Browning was the chosen author. The first poem discussed was "Home Thoughts from Abroad," which brought up Browning as a nature poet; the truth of his statement of the thrush repeating his song, which he mentions in another poem; what exactly does noontide mean, and *do* the butter-cups, "the children's dower," awaken at noontide; what particular hour does *any* flower which closes at night choose for awakening? Compare "The fields look rough with hoary dew" with Tennyson's lines in "The Two Voices":

"Sooner or later will gray prime
Make thy grass hoar with early rime."

And to explain the "*grass*," take this from Shakespeare's *Pericles*, IV.1, 15:

"I will rob Tellus of her weed,
To strew thy green with flowers."

In "Home Thoughts from the Sea," the past and present pronunciation of Trafalgar and Gibraltar, and Mr. Cameron's funny reading of the last lines, where "pray" and "Africa" are made to rhyme, are all that I can recall.

"The Lost Leader" brought forth the questions, Who was the leader? Date of poem? When was Wordsworth made laureate? Who was the preceding laureate? Salary of laureate? Political government in Wordsworth's and Browning's times? The names of Wordsworth's poems showing that he was a poet of the common people? Politics of Milton and Shakespeare? Meaning of "riband"? Why different prepositions used in connection with the names of the four authors mentioned? "Rags were they purple, his heart had been proud," brought out several different possible meanings, and we were left to meditate upon the meaning of the last lines, and turned to "Pippa Passes." What meaning did the title at first convey? What is Pippa's full name? Compare the beautiful sunrise in the introduction with sunrises in Tennyson and elsewhere. It will be worth the trouble to look through Browning for an autumn one. Is it consistent with human nature and dramatic art to put the sentiments that Pippa expresses into the mouth of a simple factory girl? In connection with this it was suggested that heredity might account for it, which was objected to on the ground that environment, etc., would counteract it. A discussion followed as to whether Lorenzo, in "The Merchant of Venice," was the kind of a man from whom one would expect such poetic speeches. Being in love

accounted for a good deal. Pippa's holiday, the fine morning, etc., may have put her in a similar ecstatic state. Why did Pippa call her day a "*twelve-hours' treasure*"? "Thy long blue, solemn hours serenely flowing," and "Thy fitful, sunshine minutes, coming, going," are fine contrasting lines, and, a little further on, the line "Hinds drove the slow, white oxen up the hills," was picked out as a good illustration of onomatopœia.

"What were all earth else, with a *feel* of heaven;" give other instances of this use of "feel." The pronunciation of Asolo was shown by scanning the lines in which it occurs, and Browning ceded to be good authority for Italian pronunciation.

Had anyone tried the experiment with the sunbeam mentioned in the lines beginning "Aha, you foolhardy sunbeam," and with what success? Browning's black comparisons fall short of the strong "black as death," "black as night," "black as hell," etc., of other poets, when he only says of Phene's hair that it is "blackier than all except the black eyelash"; and in "The Ring and The Book" the barbaress can only speak of the tall, young girl's hair "as black as yon patch." We should like some notes on the line, "I wonder she contrives those lids no dresses." What is the meaning of the line, "Oh, save that brow its virgin dimness!"? Compare it with the epithet "lustrous front," applied later on to the same person. The thought of the nimbus around the head of a saint, as it would appear afar or near, came to me as I wrote the above.

What is a cicala?

"Nor yet cicala dared carouse—
No, dared carouse."

Why are the words repeated? Take note of Browning's use of "No." Luigi says "the very cicala laughs." Sebald's song,

"Let the watching lids wink!
Day's ablaze with eyes, think!"

reminded some one of Tennyson's Lady Godiva.

"God's in his heaven,
All's right with the world!"

bade fair to excite a religious discussion, which was quietly settled by the preceptor reminding us of the "I am" of the Bible, and then trying to extract from us some quotations from "In Memoriam," which were probably these:

"O yet we trust that, somehow, good
Will be the final goal of all."

And

"That God, which ever lives and loves,
One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off, Divine event,
To which the whole creation moves."