

A FRAGMENT OF THE LOST DIALOGUE OF PLATO,
ENTITLED "THE PHILOSOPHER'S
DIVERSION."

I WENT out the other day with Protogenes and Alexandros—you know them both—to make trial again of this new game which they have brought from the Cassiterides, and which is played with iron-shod staves and a small whitened ball. The game seemed to me to be a seemly one, both as to itself, but especially to be congenial to men weighed down, as we also were, with the weight of years and philosophy; for it did not require exertions inconvenient to our dignity. And I felt that we had hit the saying of Pericles and were practising manliness without ceasing to be thinkers, and pursuing art without spending an obol; and I was much pleased with myself.

And, therefore, I was not surprised, after a few minutes, to see a long procession of youths advancing towards us through the trees from the road, carrying clubs and many colored streamers and shouting together an outlandish and inharmonious chant. "Who are these, Protogenes," I said, "who seem to be singing from their spelling book? Are these barbarians from the Cassiterides coming up to see and encourage Hellenes in the playing of their national game? It seems not unfriendly of the men, by Zeus, and they are a fine-looking lot." "Not much (*οὐ πάνυ*) Socrates," said Protogenes, "they are some of the outer circle of students of those about the Lyceum; they are on their way to see the kicking of the ball as it is called." And just then some of the procession as they were passing began to scoff and jeer. "Hi Cadi Cadi," they shouted. (This is a Persian word for the attendants sometimes employed in the game we were playing, when the players play badly.) "He has lost his ball; these players are amateurs." (I had just driven my ball; it is wonderful how short a distance considering the strength put forth.) "Hush, hush man," I said to Protogenes, "do not blaspheme the Lyceum. These altar-lickers (*βωμολόχοι*) and sweepings (*κοιμοετος*) cannot belong to it; far from it." "They are not far from it at all Socrates," retorted Protogenes, "they belong to the Museum of Practical Knowledge, just south of the Lyceum itself, and they are learning to manufacture bridges and to bridge gulfs." "By Hera," I said, "they should have come to the Lyceum instead, where we manufacture gentlemen; or, if they must make bridges, they should bridge the gulf between these jeers at quiet strangers and a liberal courtesy. I thought they were, at best, Pharmacopolists" (for by some of this name, also, we had been jeered in the same place on a previous day). "Don't be hard on them," said Alexandros, (you know the man, how decent and considerate he is), "they live in a very ugly building, and it seems likely that it prevents them from attaining to beauty of manners. Perhaps when they have the handsome new building which the Six Archons are having put up for them they will behave accordingly." "They need it," I said, as I stumbled on my ball, for in my disconcertment I had lost it, though it grovelled at my feet. "Next time I hear any of the parents of our pupils doubting if they would not be more usefully employed if they left us and went to that Museum, I will bring them up here among the trees and let them see the manners of our pupils and those others and judge for themselves." "Babai, Socrates," said Protogenes, "you seem to have discovered a cure for their blindness; but whose turn is it?" "Drive on, Alexandros," said I, "it is your turn. Let us forget the Museum of Practical Knowledge and all that it contains; but first let us raise *our* song." Then we all three sang together the ancient song of Athens:

"A swine there was in days gone by
That grunted at Athena;
'O fie,' then did the goddess cry,
'Get back, sir, to your sty, your sty,
Till better's your demeanor.'"

And after that we finished the ten holes, in spite of all, in

forty-eight and forty-nine blows, Alexandros in forty-eight, Protogenes and I (for he is a beginner, as you know), in forty-nine.

M. H. *Water* Δ

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES.

VIII. REV. JOHN MONRO GIBSON, B.A., '62, M.A., '66, D.D. (CHICAGO).

THE Rev. John Monro Gibson, pastor of St. John's Wood (Presbyterian) Church, London, England, is the son of the late Rev. Jas. Gibson, U. P. minister one time of Owen Sound. He was born at Whitehom, Wigtonshire, Scotland, in 1838, and was educated at Brechin High School, Glasgow University, and at the University of Toronto, from which he graduated as Prince of Wales prizeman in 1862, and M.A. in 1866. He studied Theology at W. P. Hall and at Knox College, and was ordained in 1864 to become the colleague of Rev. Dr. Taylor at Erskine Church, Montreal, and lecturer in Exegetical Theology in the Presbyterian College there. In 1874 he was called as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church to Chicago, and while there received the degree of D.D. from the University of Chicago. In 1880 he assumed the duties of his present charge—the St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church, London, England. Dr. Gibson is the author of a large number of valued works on theological subjects, including "Ages Before Moses" (1879), "Christianity According to Christ" (1888), and "The Unity and Symmetry of the Bible" (1896). He was elected Moderator of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England in 1891 and President of the National Council of the Free Evangelical Churches of England and Wales in 1896. The Globe says: "As pastor of St. John's Wood he has taken his place among the foremost preachers of England. Dr. Gibson has many and varied gifts and can use to great advantage all his talents. He is a first-rate, all-round man and has succeeded as preacher, pastor, lecturer and author. Behind all that is seen a kind heart, a true life, and to every honest man he stretches a large, strong, helpful hand."

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The chief item of interest at the regular meeting of the Engineering Society on Wednesday last was the excellent paper of Mr. E. H. Darling, '98, of the Hamilton Bridge Works, on "Steel Highway Bridge Work in Ontario."

Mr. Darling assured the audience of the pleasure it gave him in renewing his acquaintance with the School, and paid a warm tribute to the work which the Engineering Society is doing in providing a connecting link between theory and practice. In entering upon the subject, he directed the attention of the audience to the immense importance of steel as a material of construction. It was now so widely used by engineers in all branches of the profession that no one in engineering should be without a good working knowledge of its uses and possibilities. The paper proper was a review and criticism of steel highway bridge work of the past and present in this Province. He described the most approved practice under different conditions and noted the errors usually made in such work.

Mr. J. McGowan, Lecturer in Applied Mechanics, made a few remarks regarding common American practice in highway bridge work.

Mr. J. A. Beatty, '03, was elected as representative to the Meds.' dinner.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The Society will hold an open meeting on Friday, December 5, at 4 p.m., in room 16. Mr. G. R. Anderson, M.A., will give a lecture on the Diatonic Scale, which will be supplemented by a series of interesting experiments. All are cordially invited to attend.