

BEAUTIES OF NATURE—AND ENGLISH.

FAR, far above, in the azure bright,
Soars with rapid wing the circling kight;
Scanning with hungry eyes the scene
Spread out below; while his body icene
He longs to stuff:
But of him enuff.

Turn we now to those fair drooping boughs,
Beneath which feed the patient coughs,
And hark, as a naturalist nat'rally does,
'To the song of the bees as they softly boes
From flower to flower,
All the happy hower.

E. W. L.

A PIANO PRODIGY.



EDITOR OF GRIP—SIR,—Attracted by the fulsome announcements, I went to hear Otto Hegner, the "wonderful child pianist." I cannot say I was very much disappointed, for, to tell the truth, Otto is a smart little boy, and really played very well indeed. But, sir, I am a Canadian patriot, and I protest against the over-much encouragement of foreign

industry—I suppose piano playing may be called an industry when it is a matter of business—to the detriment of home labor—piano playing is certainly *labor* in some cases. Now, there is my little son Alfred John, only ten years of age—two years less than little Hegner. You never see a word about him in the papers, and his remarkable talents are never the topic of conversation in polite society, and yet, sir, he has a most wonderful taste for the piano. Every time the parlor door is left open the cute little fellow is in there, perched up on the stool and pounding away at the ivory like a real grown-up professor. He has the same trick as Hegner of slipping off the stool so as to reach the notes at the end of the key-board, and I can truly say his touch is, if anything, heavier than that of the little German. I have no ear for music myself, but I am sure Alfred John plays *tunes*. They sound to me like high classical music—flats, sharps and things all mixed up together, you know, without any connection to speak of. How he ever came to learn them I can't imagine. It's a case of pure genius, sir. So great is his passion for the piano that he goes at it regardless of the condition of his hands, which are frequently daubed over with jam or molasses, and when he gets carried away with the divine afflatus he throws his soul into the work to such an extent that he

has broken about a dozen of the keys. Knowing you to be the generous patron of native talent—and especially of talent which takes an artistic direction, I thought it my duty to bring this marvellous Canadian prodigy to the knowledge of the public. Yours, etc.,

ALFRED JOHN SQUIRK, SR., (*His father.*)

A LITERARY STAR.

PLUGWINCH—"I am a great admirer of Saltus' novels. It is the best work of the kind done now-a-days. There is a vigor, an objectiveness, so to speak, in his writings which renders him a bright particular star in the literary firmament."

JOAQUER—"Considerably more 'bright' than 'particular' I should say, and if he is a star at all he must belong to the Zola system."

PUBLIC SCHOOL CRUELTY.



MUCH is said now-a-days about our enlightened school system, but there is evidently a need for the infusion of more common sense into the methods of some of the Public schools. Being in a pleasant home in one of our western towns a few days ago we found the parents lamenting the run-down physical condition of their little daughter, aged twelve, as the result of a term of barbarous "examinations." As an example of the refinements of cruelty inflicted

on this child and others like her we append the following composition, one of a number on equally attractive and juicy subjects required of her:—

THE QUEBEC ACT.

The Quebec Act was passed in 1774 to please the French Canadians who had been conquered by the English. They did not like the English laws and the way the English had of holding land.

So England gave them the Quebec Act which enlarged the limits assigned to the Province of Quebec, defined those limits which included apparently in the other territory the whole of what was formerly Upper Canada. The French were allowed to have French Civil Laws and English Criminal Laws. And also they were allowed to keep their own religion which was Roman Catholic and their own language which was French. And they were allowed to have a Legislative Council to be composed of not less than seventeen and not more than twenty-three members of both French and English.

It was not a good thing for Canada as it made the English settlers dissatisfied.

