

Then let us pray that come it may—
 As soon it will for a that—
 That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
 May bear the gree, and a' that;
 For a' that, and a' that
 It's coming yet for a' that,
 That man to man, the world o'er,
 Shall brithers be for a' that!

—Robert Burns.

I. Preparation.

Robert Burns, the Scotch poet, was a plowman. When his genius was realized friends tried to educate him to use correct and learned English expressions and describe incidents more usually discussed by poets of his time but he was not successful in this. His best poems are those which describe homely ordinary things, a daisy which he uprooted while plowing, a field mouse, whose home he up-turned. The story goes that Burns was invited to dine with a lord and was put at the second table. The lord is forgotten but Burns still lives. This poem, "For a' That," wipes out the superficial value put on money and other externalities. "A man is worth what he is himself."

II. Presentation.

The teacher should read this poem orally before assigning it for study.

III. Analysis of Poem.

Read the first stanza silently. What does Burns think of a person who hangs his head because he is poor? What does "our toils obscure" mean? What is a guinea? "Gowd" means gold. What do the last two lines mean?

Read second stanza. "Hamely," homely, "hoddin-gray," coarse woolen cloths, "gie," give; "sea," so. Who can express the thought of the first four lines in his own words? How does Burns describe the gorgeousness he sees about him? What does he say about "an honest man?"

Read third stanza silently. "Birkie," an impudent fellow; "coof," fool or blockhead. What do the "rib" and "star" stand for? Put Burns' thought in this stanza in your own words. "Aboon," above.

Read fourth stanza. What honors may a prince confer? What does Burns say are better than the "dignities" or honors of a court, etc.? Who can put this in his own words?

Read fifth stanza. "Gree," prize. What change does Burns fortell? Do we believe that all men are brothers? Is our government founded upon that idea?

IV. Oral Reading.

The pupils will enjoy reading this aloud and little pressure will likely be needed to get them to memorize it.

V. Correlation.

Several other poems of Burns may quite wisely be taken up. "To a Mountain Daisy," "To a Mouse," "The Banks o' Doon," and others.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The League of Nations.

The League of Nations began its function "modestly and democratically" at 10.30 a.m. of January 16th, when the Executive Council opened its first meeting in the Clock Room of the French Foreign Ministry. Nine men, gathered about a green-covered table in one end of the saloon, "put in motion," says the *Toronto Globe*, "the machinery of the most ambitious experiment in government man has ever assayed." A hundred or more diplomats from the four corners of the earth looked on, Lloyd George being among the spectators.

Canadian Coal.

During the year 1917 Canada imported from the United States over 22,000,000 tons of coal. For economic and national reasons we should not be so dependent upon a foreign country for our fuel.

A special committee has recently been appointed by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to investigate the possibility of developing sufficient fuel in Canada to meet the needs of Canadian industry. It would prove a great advantage to the country if the investigations of this committee resulted in taking full advantage of our deposits and making us less dependent upon those of the United States.

Speaking of our coal deposits Mr. Arthur V. White, Consulting Engineer of the Commission of Conservation, says, "Considering the country as a whole, Canada, in respect to quantity, quality and accessibility for mining purposes, possesses coal deposits which compare favorably with those of the greatest coal mining countries of the world. Speaking in round numbers, she has nearly 1,000,000,000 tons of anthracite coal, 315,000,000 tons of bituminous coal and 10,000,000,000 tons of sub-bituminous coal and lignite."

The Recent French Elections.

The election for French Chamber of Deputies, Senate and President fell due this year. The election for the Chamber of Deputies, whose governing powers resemble those of the British House of Commons, took place late in 1919. The entire Chamber of Deputies was renewed and assembled on December 8th. Their tenure of office extends to May 1924. On January 11th the election of the Senate was held. There are three hundred Senators elected for nine-year-terms, one-third retiring every three years; but because there was no election held during the war period this election found two hundred rather than one hundred seats to fill in the upper house. The President is elected for a term of seven years by the Senate and Chamber of Deputies sitting together in a National Assembly. Including the new members from Alsace and Lorraine, there are six hundred and sixteen,