



Life, Literature and Education.

Our Prizewinners.

It is time again to announce the names of the prizewinners in a competition, and again we have to call the attention of contributors to the necessity of conforming to our rules. This time no fewer than four had to be ruled out for writing more than the allotted number of words. "A word to the wise is sufficient," so far as future competitions are concerned.

Answers grave and answers gay poured in on the subject of "The Best Method of Popping the Question." Just one poor, lone mortal advocated the writing method. He ought to see the storm of disapproval with which the suggestion of such a thing was forestalled by nearly all the women who wrote. Again, to this lone mortal, is "a word to the wise sufficient"?

Mr. G. T. Jenkinson is again a prizewinner; this time he carries off the first prize. To Fred Bachelor has been awarded the second prize. Also an extra award to Mr. W. J. Way, whose essay, though lacking in the originality of the other two, shows discrimination in illustration, a quality not to be despised.

In closing, we wish to say that, in future, two prizes will not be awarded consecutively to the same competitor. We think this will be fairer to the majority of our correspondents. If you wish the practice, write every time, if you like. A short honor-roll of, say, the names of six of those who have written the best essays, other than the prize-winning ones, will be published. But don't expect to win a prize more than once in three competitions. Give the "other fellow" a chance.

First-prize Essay.

There is a time to do everything, and there is a time and way to pop the question.

Poets tell us how, novelists also tell us. The old maxim, "Never do anything without first considering what the end might be," should be followed; but having considered, and concluding to do it, lose no time. Of course, I would not select a public meeting, and perhaps (if nervous) not daylight; but at a convenient time tell the girl of your choice (in a sincere manner, and in few words) the state of your mind. Do not stop in the middle because you fancy you see in her face a refusal, but be a man, talk like a man, and if refused act like a man, and not a coward. Do not put off this important step because you are poor, or even if you have in early life been unworthy of her; tell her of your poverty. It is no disgrace. "An honest man, though e'er so poor, is king of men for a' that." Tell her of your past life, repented of and lived down, conceal nothing, be a man. G. T. JENKINSON.
Welland Co., Ont.

Second-prize Essay.

The term popping the question is a slang phrase, meaning a proposal to marriage. It is a subject which demands serious consideration, because matrimony is a sacred rite, ordained by God, by which man is supplied with a helpmeet for his life-work on earth. The best method of popping the question is not in words alone, but in actions also. If a young man, by his honorable, upright bearing, industrious habits, and his intelligent interest in the affairs of this country, shows that he has some grand aim in life, he will build himself a character which will be an honor to his parents and a credit to his community. In his attentions to the girl of his choice, he must allow no other motive than that of true love to prompt him. When the time comes, which will almost invariably be the case, when one finds that another has entered the same hidden door of thought or fancy whose key they two in all the world possess, then will circumstances provide, in some form or other, a method of popping the question. FRED BACHELOR.
Simcoe Co., Ont.

Extra Award.

The best method for one man may not be the best for another, and yet each may be equally successful in winning the lady of his choice.

Daniel Webster popped the question to Miss Fletcher in a neat and poetic way. He was holding a skein of wool which the lady was unravelling. "Grace," said he, "we have been untying knots. Let us see if we can tie one which will not untie in a lifetime." With a piece of tape he formed half a true-lover's knot. Miss Fletcher com-

plained, answered "Pop." This gentle hint and encouragement seemed necessary in this instance.

Let me suggest that, in any event, the popping be done in propria persona, avoiding the fate of "Miles Standish" and others who have tried it by proxy. W. J. WAY.
Kent Co., Ont.

Our New Topic: "A Dream of Fair Women."

By the time this paper reaches you the time allotted for our debate will have expired. Next week we shall publish the four best essays, and leave it to the members of the Society to determine which side has won.

To-day we have much pleasure in presenting to you a new subject, one which is, perhaps, not as hard as it seems at first sight, and yet which is not so easy as to be unworthy of the attention of the most acute literary critic. You may, to be explicit, write a GOOD essay on to-day's subject, or, if you are clever enough, you may write a masterpiece. We do not, of course, expect a great many masterpieces, but we do look for a great many excellent essays. The patent result, however, as evidenced in prizewinning, is—and we think you will agree with us in this—the least important thing to be considered, interesting and instructive though it may be. The real importance in all this Literary Society work is the benefit accruing to YOU from the keen mental effort involved in your work. We trust you will fully recognize this fact, and that you will throw yourself into

picture. For convenience, you may number the women from left to right, 1, 2, 3, etc. We may suggest that you may find some assistance in an encyclopædia, to which, if you do not own one, you will probably find access in your town or village library, or in the library of someone whom you know. Agnes Strickland's "Queens of England," if accessible, may also be of some use, but is not a necessity.

As the subject is harder than the last one, we will give you until the last of March for the completion of your essay. Also, we will give you the privilege of writing 300 words, if you choose, but not more than this. For the first prize we give you choice of Faust, Idylls of the King, Burns' Poems, or a pin. For the second prize (slightly inferior in binding, though not in contents), Bacon's Essays, Discourses of Epicurus, Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors. Kindly state, when writing, which of these you prefer.

Now, we hope you will get to work at once. We are very much interested in this experiment, not only for the sake of the F. A. & H. M. L. S., but for your sake as well. Do your best, and help to make this the liveliest and most profitable competition we have had.

Mr. Taylor's Letter Endorsed

I would like to say through the "L. L. & E." page that I was pleased with Mr. J. D. Taylor's answer, in your issue of the 8th inst., to Mr. McGregor's letter. In the matter of reading, my views are in almost complete agreement with those expressed by him. Possibly, however, I have a somewhat higher appreciation of fiction, but only of fiction in its purer and loftier forms. I would eliminate light fiction from the prescribed list of books, believing that biography, history, travels, etc., are better fitted to form worthy characters. I entirely disapprove of reading for mere pastime. I think the object and purpose of reading should be instruction and the moulding of character. The pleasure accruing need be none the less, but vastly more real and enduring.

"Not enjoyment, and not sorrow, is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow finds us farther than to-day."

Fictitious or ideal characters occupy a legitimate place in literature, and undoubtedly will continue to occupy a place as long as literature endures—the Bible itself abounds with them. This type expresses the sublimest truths, and the most sacred yearnings and noblest aspirations of humanity. The Prodigal Son, and the Good Samaritan, historically fictitious characters, will live immortal through the ages, accomplishing their high mission among men. The parables of Christ are ideals more realistic, more powerful, more effective than the realities of actual life. They all have a true basis in human experience, and will live

"As long as the heart has passions,
As long as the life has woes."

Kent Co., Ont. W. J. WAY.



George W. Joy.

A Dream of Fair Women

"In every land I saw, wherever light illumineth,
Beauty and anguish walking hand in hand the downward slope to death."

—Tennyson.

pleted it, and a kiss sealed the sym-bolical bargain.

A less romantic popping of the question was that of a Scotch youth: "I think I will marry thee, Jean." To which she replied, "Man, Jock, I wad be muckle obleeged to ye if ye wad!" And this, probably, was the "Best Method" for him.

A young lady, being asked by her bashful lover what was her favorite

this competition with all the enthusiasm that is in you.

The accompanying picture is a copy of one exhibited at the Royal Academy, London, Eng., last year. It represents Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women." Now, we want you to get to work immediately, study up this poem, and write us a short essay on it, naming, in your essay, with reasons, each personage shown in the