

STUDY AND STUDIO.



TRINITY.—Your idea of the snowdrop as an emblem is quite your own. That flower has, as doubtless you know, been consecrated to the Virgin Mary, since it appears on or about the Feast of the Purification, and is spotless in aspect. We consider this a better association of thoughts than the one you embody in your lines, as the distinction between the "Threes" is not sufficiently marked in the flower to carry out your comparison. As for the lines themselves, it would be better to keep them all alike, either of seven, or of eight syllables in length. But apart from these criticisms, we can say that your thoughts regarding "Faith, Hope, and Charity" and the snowdrop are pretty, especially in one verse—

"Love, that bids thee to the earth
Prophesy the sweet Spring's birth,
Though thou art denied its mirth."

PHOENIX OF DEAD-MOUNTAIN.—What a very delightful letter you have written us! If you have no girl correspondents it is a great pity, for you certainly have an unusual talent for letter-writing. We have no corrections to make, save that it would perhaps be better to say "I have never stayed" rather than "I have never been staying;" and it is not strictly correct to say that one thing is "more perfect" than another—perfect, not admitting of comparison—while "but which" (page 3) is inadmissible in its connection. These are rather far-fetched criticisms, and we must repeat that the reading of your letter, word by word, has been a very great pleasure to us. We wish you success in your examinations. There is no English degree exactly corresponding to that of the French "Licentiate." The Matriculation Examination of the University of London is a usual one for girls and boys of about the age you name. You might certainly prepare for that, or for the Senior Cambridge; but the B.A. (London) requires two successive examinations, at a distance of time from each other, and you would need to matriculate in one year, take your first B.A. in the next year, your second B.A. in the third year, under the most favourable conditions. You can obtain all particulars respecting the entrance examination to Girton from Miss Kensington, 1, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, London; and respecting the "Senior Cambridge," from Dr. Keynes, Syndicate Buildings, Cambridge. We should be glad to hear from you again. Perhaps when you are older you will revert to the exercise of your pen which caused you such delight in early youth, and translate the unusual experiences and varied scenery of your life into poetry or prose.

STUDENT.—Only two questions may be answered at once.—1. The subjects in which the candidate passes are set forth at the foot of the first class certificate of the College of Preceptors we have seen.—2. The London University Matriculation is a far more difficult test than the first class College of Preceptors' examination. Address for particulars of either, College of Preceptors, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.; Registrar, University of London, Burlington Gardens, W. The fee for the Matriculation is £2, for the College of Preceptors' examination 10s.

TOPSY.—We are interested in your wish to improve yourself, but the choice of subjects for home study depends largely upon taste and inclination, as well as upon previous acquirement, so that we find it a little difficult to suggest any particular books to guide you. You could educate yourself, really, in almost any subject, at your age, by application. The history of your own or other countries, the French, German, or Italian languages, the history of art (Renaissance period), different branches of science, the art of essay-writing and composition, all are useful and attractive subjects that you could study alone. Perhaps if you wish more definite guidance in any one of them you will write again; and no doubt you have observed the numerous references in this column to societies for the help of home students.

L. K. N.—We asked the origin of the quotation you give, "This life to love but it is a double life to be beloved," for another correspondent last month, and we hope to receive some answers in "Our Open Letter Box."

VIOLET HORSLEY.—Do not apologise for writing to us. We are glad to hear from you, and are sure you will improve in the direction you speak of, since you are so much in earnest. Our rules, however, preclude us from answering more than two questions at a time.—1. "Ever upon the topmost roof our banner of England blew," is from the "Defence of Lucknow," a poem by Tennyson.—2. The 25th of September, 1857, was a Friday.

SAMASCO.—1. There are Moravian Schools at Bedford; Fairfield, near Manchester; Fulneck, near Leeds; Gomersal, near Leeds; Lower Wyke, near Bradford, Yorks; Ockbrook, near Derby; Tytherton, near Chippenham; also at Neuwied on the Rhine, Germany.—2. We do not understand if your second query is separate from, or identical with, the first, but if separate, we could highly recommend Miss Wills' Maison Fleurie, Lausanne, as an excellent school for a delicate girl. The education and influence at the Moravian Schools are said to be excellent, but we know nothing as to their suitability for delicate children.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PRESBYTERIAN.—1. Any good encyclopedia will give you a brief history of your church. In England it dates from the time of Wickliffe and the Lollards, in the XIVth and XVth centuries; the first separate congregation was formed at Wandsworth in 1572. In the U.S. of America the first (English speaking) was formed in Maryland.—To mount maps or prints on calico or linen—get a smooth deal board and tack the cloth firmly and closely upon it, taking care that the grain or threads of the cloth run perfectly straight, not in wavy lines. Then coat it with strong size and leave it till nearly dry. The back of the map must then be evenly covered with good paste (not very watery), that called "gloy" is, perhaps, the best. Let the first coat have time to sink into the paper, say for about ten minutes, then apply another and lay it on the cloth, and dab it all over with a clean cloth, smoothing out the edges and expelling any superfluous paste, and when perfectly dry cut off the waste cloth margin.

JULY inquires why wives take the surnames of their husbands. We think you need only reflect a little to find some good reasons; but we may tell you that the custom is a very old one, and obtained amongst the ancient Romans, whence we derived it. The wife of Pompey was distinguished from other Julias by the addition "of Pompey." Our married women only omit the word "of." In some foreign countries—notably in Switzerland—the case is reversed, and the man takes the wife's name, but in addition to, and following his own. Thus, the well-known Genevese historian, Merle (blackbird), married an Englishwoman of the Daubeneys family, and styled himself Merle D'Aubigny, having Frenchified the English name; and English people unacquainted with this fact, have fallen into the error of calling his work *D'Aubigny's History of the Reformation*. He died in 1872.

CORA.—No. Van Eyck was not the inventor of oil-painting, but he revived the art. He was born and died between about 1340 and 1440, whose paintings of some kind are traced back to about 2100 years B.C., when Asymandias, a great King of Egypt, had his acts recorded in painting and sculpture on his own magnificent statue at Thebes. Polignotta, the earliest known Greek painter, who flourished about 422 B.C., decorated one of the public porticoes of Athens, and depicted the remarkable events of the Trojan war. Apelles (B.C. 312) is the next on historical record as a painter, and is said to be the first who produced perfected specimens of oil-painting; and then the art seems to have disappeared and was not revived till the end of the XIIIth century.

LOVER OF HISTORY should endeavour to obtain the *Egyptian Research Report for 1895*, and read what Professor Flinders Petrie says on the subject of the late wonderful discoveries made by Mr. J. C. Quibell. The former says that "no greater mystery existed in the ages of Egypt than the space between the Vth and the XIth dynasties, which has been cleared up by the discovery that a foreign people had occupied Egypt during the intermediate period. In the tombs (excavated) were burials of a wholly un-Egyptian character belonging to the invaders, who afterwards succumbed to the rising power of the XIth dynasty. We need not hesitate to term this 'new race' the Lybyan invaders, . . . a people who inhabited some yet undefined region of northern Africa. That these people were a branch of the 'Neolithic Race' of Europe, is also agreed by those most familiar with prehistoric man, although these Lybyans were just beyond the neolithic state of culture at the date of their invasion of Egypt."

MILLY.—The origin of the name "cab" is found in the French word *cabriolet*, of which it is a contraction; *cabri* means a kid (which is a quick traveller going by skips), and a public hackney coach was jokingly called a cabriolet, while a private carriage was called a *cabie à la crême*. The term "fly," by which in country towns the cab or hackney coach is designated, is also a contraction—i.e. of "Fly-by-nights"—instituted in 1800 by one John Butcher, a carpenter. At that time they were only "sedan chairs" for the use of ladies by night. The labour entailed on two carriers was then reduced by setting them on wheels, which increased the speed, and after that a horse was employed. On the panels of this small vehicle the owner painted an owl, and around it the motto *Nocte Volantur* (We fly by night). Very small *voitures à trois* chairs, or carriages, are in use in some of our watering places significantly called "midges," carrying out the original idea of a fly.

DIOT.—1. If your friend introduced you to her *fiatuc*, you would, of course, at once acquaint her with him in a friendly manner for her sake. You must wait for an introduction.—2. On entering a room you should speak first to the lady of the house, if possible, but you are wise enough to see that in a crowded gathering you may be obliged to speak to many people before you can reach your hostess. This does not alter the rule. It is quite immaterial who speaks first, the guest who has already arrived or the last comer, we should say the latter.

CONSTANCE S.—If your cat suffer from fits, she is not safe, and rabies might ensue. Let a veterinary surgeon see her, and put her under treatment.

Answers
to
Correspondents.