

Literature and Science.

STONYHURST AND ITS SYSTEM.

It will be interesting to examine the course of training and study in Stonyhurst Jesuit College,* which is the same in every Jesuit college, and has scarcely changed since the time of Loyola. It is easily adapted to the requirements of the time, but its spirit is always the same. The breadth of the system is best seen by a glance at the great dictionaries or encyclopedias, such as the "Imago Prima Sæculi," and those three large volumes, double-columned and closely printed, containing an account of all the Jesuit writers, in which their learning and literature are set out at length. Here we find writers in all departments—belles-lettres, poetry, Latin plays, and the graceful application of science, as well as contributors of huge folios, "dungeons of learning" in theology and science. Of all the religious orders this society has alone furnished conspicuous astronomers; and the names of Kircher and Secchi would alone give the Jesuits an honourable place. Some of their class-books have long done duty in English schools; and the "Gradus ad Parnassum" and Alvarez's prosody attest their educational skill. Versatility is a great aim of the system; and much is left to the personal influence of the master, who "goes up" with his scholars, from the bottom through all the classes to the top. Of course there is the objection that the instructor comes new and inexperienced to his duties in each successive class; but it is thought that the disadvantage is counterbalanced by personal influence and knowledge of character.

The routine arrangement for instruction differs little from that of other schools. There are seven classes—forms, as they are elsewhere called; here they are styled schools. The lowest is elements, next follow figures, grammar, syntax, poetry, rhetoric—all significant names. The usual familiar works of the classical writers are read in the lower classes, from Cæsar and Æsop and Lucian up to Cicero; Virgil and Homer are commenced in syntax; in the next class Horace, with Latin verse-making; while in rhetoric, Greek plays, with the course of the university entrance, is followed. Much attention is given to the higher mathematics and the sciences, and their study is stimulated by prizes of scholarships of £25 and upwards. The college observatories, magnetic and astronomical, form one of the recognized seven observatories of the kingdom that register observations. Here the director is Father Perry, whose name is well

* Stonyhurst was founded in Lancashire when the Jesuits were expelled from Liège.—Etu.

known to men of science. The society encourages its cleverest students to study for honours and take degrees in the London University, which fosters a scientific tone.

Here flourishes, too, a department which attracted some attention during the Tichborne trial—the class of "philosophers," who live apart under comparatively luxurious conditions and prosecute their studies after the manner of university life. They are for the most part youths of fortune or incapacity, too old or too idle to go through the classes, and too young to be cast loose on the world. They are under control, yet enjoy a certain liberty, while a modicum of instruction suited to their capacity or needs is supplied to them. Others devote their "ease with dignity" to serious studies preparatory to the army or some other profession. There are plenty of professors and masters, and any one wishing to give himself up to study with ardor finds the most cordial co-operation. Nor must we overlook some minor agencies which have always been largely used by the society in imparting a taste for the graces of literature. The book gatherer and stall-hunter has often lighted on the little stout volume of classical plays written in Latin, by some one of the fathers, and performed by the students on great festivals. Some works of this kind have been brought out in sumptuous fashion; and the well-known *Père de la Rue*, or "Ruffs," as he is known to the readers of the *Delphin* classics, was particularly distinguished as a dramatist of this type. At Stonyhurst the stage for about sixty or seventy years became an almost educational institution, and until very recently was maintained on a rather ambitious scale. The custom was, that about the beginning of December a regular theatre, complete in scenery, traps, etc., was built, and for a whole month careful instruction and rehearsing went on. At Christmas there was a season of about ten performances. These dramatic evenings were much relished; the college band performing between the acts, the whole having quite a "footlights" flavour. From the play-bills I find that the "stock" pieces were "Hamlet," "King Lear," "Merchant of Venice," "Macbeth," "Cure for the Heartache," "Speed the Plough," "Rivals," "William Tell," "Guy Mannering," "Rob Roy," "Castle Spectre," "Castle of Andalusia," and some others. The actors were well trained, while for the audience there was a certain education in poetry, feeling, and character, in spite of the fact that the dramas were presented in a rather maimed way; for by an inflexible rule enforced for centuries all female characters are tabooed. It may be conceived what an appearance was presented by "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" minus Lady Macbeth, the queen, and Ophelia; these personages, ac-

ording to precedent, being ingeniously or clumsily recast in the character of one of the other sex. A traditional receipt was followed; the speeches of the young lady heroine being transferred to a male cousin or brother who acted as a deputy, repeating his sister's or cousin's speeches to an invisible *inamorata*. Mrs. Malaprop thus became an eccentric old bachelor. All this might seem grotesque enough to those familiar with the play; but to those to whom it was utterly unknown it made little difference. The poetical plays were perhaps the most popular. They were set off with the finest dresses; for the green-room wardrobe was fully stocked, and might have set up a country theatre. "Hamlet," a triumph of judicious mangling, was always followed with breathless interest.

Much insistence was laid on public exhibitions or trials renewed periodically; when pieces in English, Greek, and Latin were recited, and examinations invited in specified books. This was done with a view to encourage readiness and dispel shyness. Between the parts the college band performed. Concerts, too, were much encouraged; there was a standing chorus, great in glee, with some sweet voices in it capable of fair solo performances; and, in my time there was a very respectable band.

All these influences duly methodized and controlled, were held to be parts of education. But latterly these have been shaped to "suit the times." The requirements of parents and guardians have proved too strong even for the rule of St. Ignatius. The theatrical season at Christmas has been abolished, owing in part to the disappearance of the audience itself; for in these days of easy travelling parents and guardians have their children with them at home at that season. At particular seasons however—as at Shrove-tide—theatrical exhibitions on a small scale are still given; and in this way all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas have been regularly produced as they came out.

But the most pleasing kind of festival is that of the annual "academies," or "breaking-up day." For the schoolboy there is something almost entrancing in the feeling that his drudgery is over, and that enlargement, long pined for, is at hand. Then there are the special glories of the day; the delightful flutter of exhibition, the crowds of strange faces beaming pleasantly, the good-natured relaxation of laws; and then there is the soft regret at departure and the dissolution of a year's companionship. For the older pupils of the place, returned after an interval of many years, the scene naturally calls up a little tumult of emotions. As they wander through the old halls, it seems like passing into a dream; the old thrill and boyish delight revive in a ghostly way and "walk." This bright and tranquil summer