

POETRY.

"GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN."

[Previous to Principal Grant's farewell address, at the Sunday service in Convocation Hall, the College choir sang, very sweetly and touchingly, the hymn, "God be with you till we meet again." This seemed to pitch the keynote of the Principal's earnest and solemn address, and suggested the burden of the following lines, "God be with you till we meet again."]

'MID blasts so bleak and skies so grey,  
And boughs so bare of birds to say  
A word of spring,—'tis hard to sing  
A note to cheer you on your way.

Yet vain the quest for words to vie  
With the old simple, sweet "Good-bye"  
That holds so much our hearts to touch  
And yet is said so carelessly!

So, fitly, o'er the still hushed throng,  
Float the sweet words of solemn song,  
That speak so clear the words of cheer  
For partings—be they short or long!

—He who is *near*—who'er is far—  
—'Neath southern cross or polar star,  
'Mid trackless seas or tropic trees—  
Be with you—wheresoe'er you are!

On Southern ocean's clustered isles,  
Round which the fair Pacific smiles,  
In far Cathay,—at gates of days,—  
Through all life's long unnumbered miles!

—With you, upon your wandering way,  
—With the beloved ones who stay  
In home's dear walls,—in college halls  
—With *all*,—until the meeting day!

FIDELIS.

Sunday, March 25th, 1888.

MISCELLANY.

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION.

THE editor of the JOURNAL delivered a lecture at the Mechanics' Institute rooms a few evenings ago, dealing with relations of capital and labour. The subject was treated from the historical point of view. The following abridgment will give some idea of the lecture:

The phase of industrial evolution discussed is that of the human element in industry, and concerns particularly capitalists and workmen. The present aspect of their relation to each other is the necessary outcome of previous conditions. We must, therefore, enquire into these in order to understand the nature of their present position. Then we may with more confidence consider what solutions are possible for the labour problem.

During the middle ages competition in industry was practically unknown. The wage system, too, was a little known. Co-operation prevailed in the production and distribution of goods in connection with the monastic institutions and feudal estates. In England the decline of the Feudal System was marked by the growing independence of those who cultivated the land and who formed the bulk of the population. During the fifteenth century the lower orders had their golden age. War and pestilence had reduced their numbers, and the remainder were greatly in demand. Their share in the produce of the country was large. Those who received wages were well paid, and everything they bought was very cheap. Up to this time there had been but two classes in Britain, but from this time dates the rise of the middle class in society to which belongs the capitalist. The middle class soon absorbed the manufacture and exchange of goods. They steadily continued to grow in importance and wealth up to the beginning of the present century, when their progress became very rapid both in Britain and America.

The labourer, however, did not maintain his high position. At the beginning of the sixteenth century he was at his zenith, at its close he had almost reached his nadir. The causes which brought him low sprang from various sources. The chief were an unusually rapid increase in population following the departure of the pestilence; the disbanding by the nobles of their great companies of retainers, who went to swell the numbers of those seeking employment; the abolition of the monasteries and the scattering of their hangers-on; the appropriation of the monastic lands by the nobles and also their enclosure of the common lands which had helped to support many labourers; the conversion of lands from agricultural to pastoral uses on account of the high price of wool; and, most disastrous of all, the debasement of the coinage. This last, taken in connection with the others, caused wages to remain as they were, while the necessities of life went up in price enormously. This helped the capitalist middle class, who paid no more for labour but got very much more for their goods. Cobden summarized the height of good fortune for the working man as "two masters after one workman," and the depth of his bad fortune as "two workmen after one master." The first was the workman's position at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the last his position at the close of it, and it continued to be his position until within the last seventy years.

The next important change affecting labour and capital began in the latter part of the last century. Up to that time manufacturing had been done by masters and their apprentices within the guilds where there was no competition. During the last century these were broken up and competition exerted its full influence. Still the number of independent manufacturers and traders was very large in proportion to the business done. Competition, together with the general advance of knowledge, develop-