

but one result and that is failure. Therefore by pen and voice all friends of education should seek to prepare the citizens of our country for this reform, which is of so great moment not alone for our schools, but also for our youth who are to be the future parents, citizens, and rulers of our land.—*The School Journal.*

When you can put yourself, in your own mind, on thoroughly good terms with your audience, without being patronizing or childishy coaxing, you are sure to catch their attention.—*Marcus Dods.*

Every death carries to some small circle of survivors thoughts of so much omitted and so little done.—*Dickens.*

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS.

A LARGE part of the admirable address with which Mr. Markham opened the sixth meeting of the International Geographical Congress, on Saturday, was naturally devoted to graceful eulogies of the countries which have sent delegates to represent them here. At no former meeting have foreign members attended in such crowds. The greater number of the fifteen hundred names on the roll are, of course, English, but considering that the date of the gathering has been fixed at a time of the year when London is beginning to empty, and at a period when the accidents of politics had just thrown the Kingdom into the turmoil of a General Election, this gathering of foreign members is one of the happiest features of the London meeting. It is at once a compliment to the attractions of the British capital, and to the reputation of the distinguished President of the gathering. The numerous audience—a very Babel of people speaking every civilised tongue—who hushed their polyglot gossip to listen to Mr. Markham's words, were, no doubt, charmed with the learning which sat so lightly on an explorer who had literally seen every land from China to Peru, had sailed with the Franklin searchers into the Polar Basin, had marched to Magdala with Napier's avenging force, and had

filled up one of the few lacunæ in the busy life of an India Office functionary by introducing the Cinchona tree into our great Dependency. In Germany a President as erudite might, no doubt, have been found, and in France one as gifted with literary style. Yet it must have been the verdict of the company who heard Mr. Markham's comprehensive survey of the field which the Congress has to cultivate, that the English exponent of their science displayed a happy combination of learning and literature. No country was omitted in the President's sketch, though, as was only natural, the land which gave birth to Marco Polo and Christopher Columbus received the place of honour. But not even the glory of having been the native soil of Flavio Gioia, of Amalfi, who acquainted Europe with the mariners' compass, entitled Italy to take precedence of the little Kingdom which, in the lifetime of Prince Henry the Navigator, discovered nearly half of the world. And the compass and rough "sea card" were but poor geographical appliances until Martin Behaim, of Nuremberg, invented the astrolabe, which was the rude forerunner of the sextant and the theodolite, and enabled the splendid voyages of the Spanish, Portuguese, French, English and Dutch mariners to be made with