

servation. Next, the study of Latin and Greek, make for a better knowledge of the mother tongue. Once we perceive the essential difference between the idiom of the ancients and our own, we can better appreciate the relation of thought to expression. By being forced to give expression to another's thought, with its subtle changes and niceties of phrase, we rapidly attain greater clearness in ours, and the result is more perfect accuracy in our native speech. By using our language we learn to use it well, and we have the great Gladstone's assertion that his mastery of English came from his study of Greek. Further, what increased richness of vocabulary follows the serious study of these ancient tongues, with their wealth of adjectives and their verbs of many meanings! Then too, do not the Greek and Latin roots form the basis of our terminology in chemistry, physics, civics, medicine and law? Finally, what a widening of our mental horizon is wrought by the knowledge of ancient history, mythology, art and architecture, all of which are essential to the proper understanding of the old authors.

In a word, then, the study of the ancient languages is of incalculable value, since it produces a keener intellect, a broader mentality, and a more cultured man.

#### THE DICKENS CENTENARY.

On the seventeenth of this month was celebrated the centenary of the birth of Charles Dickens, the most famous novelist of the Victorian era. What a wealth of memories does such a celebration recall! Which of his readers has not felt the spell of his pathos as of his peculiarly Anglo-Saxon humour? Who has not wept with him over Little Paul Dombey and Little Nell; or been moved to "inextinguishable laughter" by the inimitable Micawber or the irrepressible Sam Weller. No foreign tongue can express him, but wherever English is spoken, there a grateful posterity will ever pay its tribute of honour, and of thanksgiving, nay more, of love, to the immortal writer. His noble heart was filled with pity for the poor and suffering, with tender affection for little children, with kindly feeling for all men. His pen, inspired by genius, has been the magic channel, through which those grand sentiments of love and benevolence have flowed forth, over the English-speaking race. The world at large is the better for it.

#### PRIZE STORY CONTEST.

We shall publish in the March issue the names of the successful writers in the above contest.