

hardly suitable for public school boys. Some of the upper standard ones that he had tried with his lower forms had been condemned by them as babyish. If only their humility were proportioned to their ignorance, their progress might be greater. He had approached Messrs. Macmillan with a view of their putting in hand a series adapted for higher schools, and the firm had consented to undertake the work if he would give an assurance that they would be generally used. This, at present, he was unable to do. Not seldom the English lesson justified Mr. Balfour's prayer that the school-master might not spread his blighting influence over the fair fields of English literature. But, if the school-master used his efforts properly, no lesson could be more effective for training style, and giving a spur to the imagination."—*Journal of Education*.

One head master was of the opinion that essay writing was all important in this relation, other masters thought that the reading aloud to the boys, by one who understood English, was the *sine qua non* for obtaining good English.

—THE COMING ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.—The children will be interested in hearing about the eclipse of the sun that is to take place on the 27th of May in America and on the 28th of May in Portugal, Spain and Algiers. The eclipse will be visible in the Southern States—in Louisiana, Georgia and North and South Carolina. The total eclipse is caused by the moon passing between the sun and us and blotting it out. The total eclipse lasts only two minutes. Dr. Grant has written a magnificent description of this, the most awesome phenomenon of nature. "On no other occasion does the display of stupendous power," he says, "in the economy of the physical universe exercise so subduing an influence over the mind, or produce so humiliating a conviction of the impotence of all human efforts to control the immutable laws of nature and arrest the course of events, as when the glorious orb of day, while riding in the heavens with unclouded splendor, begins to melt away from an unseen cause, and soon totally disappears, leaving the whole visible world wrapped in the sable gloom of nocturnal darkness. The scene is rendered still more impressive by the circumstances accompanying so remarkable an occurrence. The heavens assume an unnatural aspect which excites a feeling of horror in the spectator: a livid hue is diffused over all