

We therefore all the more readily send our congratulations to one and all of our teachers as they labour from day to day in the interests of the improved humanity that is looked for in the coming generation. To our readers we say—may you one and all experience a happiness at the beginning of the New Year of 1895, as well as at its end.

—Among the difficulties that lie in the way of the teacher, there is nothing that he comes to dread more than the Machiavelism of his detractors. The straightforward, blurring-out fault-finder he can meet to compare notes with, and possibly appease, but the person who fabricates a case to prove the incapacity of others is the person whom the teacher has a mortal terror of. Max O'Rell, in his witty comparison of "French and English Immorality," holds that the superior merit of British moralists *versus* French sinners is founded chiefly on the fact that they have learned to consume their toddies more inaudibly, and concludes that at bottom no nation is very much better than its neighbours, but "differs merely in its way of showing its virtues and hiding its vices." He might have added that the difference between ancient and modern civilization could be summed up almost in the same words. And yet how often we wish that the devil-may-care enmities of the old civilization had left us some of their straightforwardness. In the present age, the highest compliment to be conferred upon a man is to be met with in the expressions "you always know where to find him," "there is no beating about the bush with him," "when he says a thing he means it," "when he is your friend he is your friend;" and with what appreciation of life's truer and nobler purposes does the enthusiastic teacher turn to the friendship of such an one when he happens to come into contact with him during his dealings with his commissioners and his visitations among parents and others. But with what circumspection does he face the citizen, shall we say the commissioner, who has the reputation of never having been brought to do anything in the positive unless he feels assured that he is deceiving somebody or other! With what shudderings does he meet with the nodding of the head of Machiavel when no assent is given, or with the smile that is transmuted into a diatribe as soon as the poor teacher's back is turned! With what misgivings in his own ability does he find out such a wretch's underminings and plottings! "Did Dickens create his Uriah Heep for the purpose of stamping out all the Uriah Heeps in the world, or did he intend that one or two should be left in each village to