

Readings and Recitations.

THE TWO GLASSES.

There sat two glasses, filled to the brim,
On a rich man's table, rim to rim;
One was ruddy and red as blood,
And one was clear as the crystal flood.
Said the glass of wine to the elder brother,
"Let us tell the tales of the past to each other;
I can tell of banquet and revel and mirth,
And the proudest and grandest souls on earth
Fell under my touch, as though struck by blight,
Where I was king, for I ruled in might.
From the height of fame I have hurled them down.
I have blasted many an honored name;
I have taken virtue and given shame;
I have tempted the youth with a sip, a taste,
That has made his future a barren waste.
Far greater than any king am I,
Or than any army beneath the sky.
I have made the arm of the driver fail,
And sent the train from the iron rail;
I have made good ships go down at sea,
And the shrieks of the lost were sweet to me;
For they said, 'Behold how great you be!
Fame, strength, wealth, genius before you fall,
And your might and power are over all.'
Oh! ho! pale brother," laughed the wine,
"Can you boast of deeds as great as mine?"
Said the water glass, "I cannot boast
Of a king dethroned or a murdered host;
But I can tell of a heart once sad,
By my crystal drops made light and glad;
Of thirsts I have quenched and brows I have lav'd;
Of hands I have cooled and souls I have saved.
I have leaped the valleys, dashed down the mountain,
Flowed in the river and played in the fountain,
Slept in the sunshine and dropped from the sky,
And everywhere gladdened the landscape and eye.
I have eased the hot forehead of fever and pain;
I have made the parch'd meadows grow fertile with grain;
I can tell of the powerful wheel of the mill;
That ground out the flour and turned at my will,
I can tell of manhood debased by you,
That I have lifted and crowned anew.
I cheer, I help, I strengthen and aid;
I gladden the heart of man and maid;
I set the chained wine-captive free,
And all are better for knowing me."

These are the tales they told each other,
The glass of wine and its paler brother,
As they sat together, filled to the brim,
On the rich man's table, rim to rim.

THE SCHOLAR'S SWEETHEART.

BY EDGAR FAWCETT.

All day he toils with zeal severe
On something learnedly polemic.
From Harvard he returned last year,
With bounteous honors academic.
His parents name him but in praise,
His little sisters quite adore him,
And all the loving household lays
Allegiance willingly before him.

What forms his labor week by week?
They could not understand—oh, never!
'Tis something eminently Greek,
'Tis something eminently clever.
But still his task, unfinished yet,
He chafes with industry unflagging,
And writes his treatise that shall set
The heads of noted pundits wagging.

Is it of Homer's doubtful lines?
Or yet some question, subtly finer,
Of whether certain famous wines
Were first obtained from Asia Minor?
Is it of dialects impure?
Is it some long-sought rule of grammar?

Is it old Sanscrit roots obscure?
Is it that wearisome digamma?

But whether this, or whether that,
Through fragrant fields, when work is ended,
While curiously wheels the zigzag bat,
And all the west is warmly splendid,
He steals to meet in loving wise,
With eager steps that do not tarry,
A rosy girl, whose shining eyes
Grow tender as she calls him "Harry."

What altered thoughts can she awake,
This pearl of sweethearts, best and fairest!
And what a contrast does she make
To "Comments on the Second Aorist!"
So strongly round him can she throw
Her dazzling spells of sweet retention,
'Tis doubtful now if he could go
Correctly through his First Declension.

For while near mossy meadow bars,
With spirit thrilled by sacred pleasures,
He lingers till the dawn of stars,
He lingers by the girl he treasures.
This grave young scholar scarcely knows
If Hector was a fighting seaman,
If lofty Pindar wrote in prose,
Or Athens lay in Lacedaemon!

—Harper's Magazine.

Official Department.

ONTARIO.

The success of the former regulations of the Minister of Education in utilizing High Schools for securing the satisfactory literary and scientific qualifications of intending teachers, and in confining the Normal Schools to their proper professional work, and creating facilities in every county for the like kind of training in the County Model Schools, have recently been extended so as to produce complete uniformity in the non-professional examinations of candidates for second and third-class certificates, in requiring that, after July next, all candidates for third-class certificates shall successfully pass the subjects prescribed for the intermediate examination in the High School, and that the County Boards of Examiners shall be relieved in the future from examining candidates of this class, excepting in so far as to their professional standing at the County Model School. This will relieve the County Councils from a large part of the expense attending the County Boards. The University course has been taken advantage of in order to supply equivalents by its examinations for first-class certificates of the higher grades "A" and "B," and for such first-class certificates the University course is now made quite as available for securing the high literary and scientific attainments required of teachers before they can obtain a first-class certificate of grade "A" or "B." Advantage is not only taken of the curriculum of all the colleges possessing University powers in this Province, but has been extended to the University of McGill College, at Montreal, to which so many students in the eastern part of Ontario are in the habit of resorting for superior education. (The Minister of Education has recognised the educational usefulness of this University in also extending to its graduates the eligibility of becoming a Public School Inspector.)

The practical results of these new regulations will probably be to relieve the Normal School, at Toronto, from the necessity of continuing its first division for giving general instruction to candidates for first-class certificates, and thus leave all the energy of the teaching staff for the professional instruction of candidates for second-class certificates.

The following are the regulations referred to above, which are all ratified by Orders in Council, dated March 20, 1880.

NON-PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS FOR FIRST A. AND B. CERTIFICATES.

I. A candidate must obtain first-class grade C. before proceeding to grades B. or A., when such candidate may take options in either of the two following departments, namely:

1. Department of English language and literature, with history and geography.

2. Department of mathematics.

II. The Department will also accept the following examinations according to the curriculum of the honor courses prescribed by the University of Toronto, or the curriculum of equal standard in any college possessing University powers in the Province of Ontario, or in the University of McGill College, of Montreal, as equivalents, as hereinafter mentioned, namely:

1. Any candidate who shall have passed the examination for the first year as prescribed in the said curriculum, and shall also have obtained first-class honors in any of the departments of mathematics, classics, or