

our English Literature abounds, the writings of eminent poets, essayists and novelists, than while at college; in the intervals of heavy study, such works are not only a relief but are profitable, especially when subjects taken up at such times have a bearing on the regular college work. In this way many an idle moment would be occupied to advantage, and would result in life-long benefit to the mind of any one diligent enough to pursue the course.

The records entitled "That Room-mate of mine," we generally peruse with interest, but recently the author's interest seemed to have flagged; of late he has produced nothing equal to the chapter in one of the back numbers, descriptive of a mock examination carried on by "that room-mate."

WE would like to remind our subscribers who have not as yet favored our financial editor with their subscription, that our terms are "payable in advance," but that all delinquents will be forgiven if prompt in responding to this reminder.

THE IRISH TENANT QUESTION.

THE much debated question of the agricultural and commercial depression in Ireland has forced itself, by its urgent necessity, upon the attention of the world. The cries of distress from poverty-stricken homes and ruined land-owners have reached us from over the waters, appealing strongly to our sympathies for aid.

Those who raise objections to the proposed reforms, as to the disposition and rental of property, are men who own nearly all the land. Their aim is to keep the greater bulk of it under their own control. They therefore exact heavy rents and give short leases to their tenants, and, as the disposal of the land is often left in the hands of land agents, the tenants suffer much from injustice.

They say—if the land owners will not sell their land, let them at least grant us the privilege of leasing it, at moderate terms, for a reasonable number of years, so that we

may feel, in expending our labor and means upon its cultivation, we shall not be pouring all our gains into coffers already full to overflowing: and when, perhaps, we have got the land into good condition by persistent tilling and fertilizing and just as we are beginning to hope for success, the owner dies, and the property passes to the nearest heir, who re-lets it at advanced rates. As long as this state of affairs continues, so long will the peasantry be in a chronic state of penury and starvation, and the farmers engaged in one incessant struggle for bread.

It has been argued that intemperance, rather than the unjust measures of those who have control of the land laws, is one of the sources of the great poverty in Ireland. While it is to be regretted that it does its share in adding to the distress, still this of itself would not be sufficient to account for the great depression in farming and trade. The lower classes in both Great Britain and Ireland are confessedly shiftless, but in addition to this Catholicism holds such a mighty sway over the people, that they are little better than slaves under the influence of a mighty priesthood, enchained by ignorance and superstition. Until these shackles are broken Ireland can hardly be said to be free. The people, with all their faults, are naturally industrious and persevering, but in spite of their efforts the crops of last year were a failure, owing to the heavy and long continued rains with which the country was visited. This, in conjunction with the other difficulties and discouragements, seems to have capped the climax and brought upon them this present financial depression.

Again, they complain that the rents are high, and that they cannot compete with the foreign market in selling their grain. In this new, free country where labor is cheap and land may be had for the trouble of clearing it, where the climate is mild and the temperature even, all kinds of grain may be easily cultivated. The grain merchants of Canada find that they can export their produce to the British market and compete fairly with the merchants there, and at the same time make a large profit, while the British merchant, to compete favorably with the foreign exportations with which the market is crowded, must sell at a figure so low that he not only makes no profit but is rather the loser in the transaction.