

to a thorough and accurate knowledge of our mother-tongue, that we plead for its continuance on the curriculum, and should be, one and all, sorry to see any determined movement on the part of a modern language to oust it from its lawful place. "If," as the teacher of Latin already referred to has said, "you are familiar with the two elements of English (the Saxon and the Latin) you possess the means of knowing and writing English." This idea has been developed by Dr. Harris in an article published in one of his more recent reports, where he draws attention to the value of Latin as a school study, as furnishing "the root words to that part of our vocabulary which is more especially the language of thought and reflection." "Hence," he says, "it happens that even a little study of Latin makes a great difference in the grasp of the mind as regards generalization and principles. Without Latin the trope and metaphor underlying the abstract terms necessary to express all elevated sentiment or thought in English, and more specifically all scientific results, is not perceived nor felt. Such trope or metaphor is the basis of abstract terms, and hence the latter have been called 'fossil poetry.' To gain command of the resources of a language one must revivify this poetic element, must acquire a feeling of the trope and metaphor which it contains."

Not only this, but Latin embodied as it is in the English language, is as much the medium of intercourse between learned and cultured men *now*, as it was when scholars and courtiers used the language of ancient Rome to express their ideas and opinions. You have all heard the wail, "Oh, Latin is a dead language, and I don't see why my boy or girl should be asked to learn it." There is an element of truth—a very small element of truth—in the statement that Latin is a "dead" language. As a self-contained, self-sustaining means of thought-expression, it is now practically "dead;" but at the same time, and in an important sense, it is very much alive. It lives in our own language and makes its vigorous transmitted life apparent in every sentence we utter. A little inspection will reveal the fact that a very large proportion of the words used in everyday conversation are of Latin origin, and the proportion becomes greater as the conversation becomes more cultured. What I have just tried to make