

and oneself, was poetry ever very easy reading? It is doubtless easiest when read aloud to a person of the other sex; then it is charming, if the person of the other sex is charming; and it has its attractions even when read aloud to a group of attractive persons of the other sex. One or two young men may read it together when they are both in love, and in a like manner two young girls. But in one's closet (as one's room is called in poetry, not the real closet where one's clothes hang), in the solitude of one's chamber, would not one far rather have a good novel, if he wished to be either pleased or edified? This is a very bold question, and it requires all our hardihood to put it; but sooner or later some one must ask it, for poetry is gradually changing its whole relation to life, which it no longer depicts or expresses in the old way. It no longer even represents literature as it once did. In the beginning of modern literature the mere poetic form was enough; metre and rhyme meant scholarship, and men were amazed, as children now are, at people who could make them. Afterward thought and feeling were demanded as well as metre and rhyme; then elegance, then beauty, and beauty more and more. There was a time when history was told in verse, and in the epics there was a good deal of fact as well as fiction. In our day *Aurora Leigh* and *Lucille* were attempts to give the poetic form to novels, and the epic may be said to have expired in them; their success ended the long tradition. The pastoral was dead long ago, dead the satire, dead the metrical drama. The tale in verse ceased with Tennyson's "Idylls," and his own and other people's imitations of them. What we have left is the essay, descriptive or subjective; the sonnet, uttering in elaborate form a single thought or emotion; the lyrical anecdote, the lyrical conundrum, the lyrical picture, and the lyrical cry or outburst. To this last the metrical shape still seems essential; it sings and it pleases; but that it is really essential we do not think any reader of Turguénief's Poems in Prose will maintain. Nevertheless it has yet an undeniable value, though it can no longer impart this value to thoughts in themselves poor and slight; and it is proof of the intellectual and emotional merit of much in this group of books that the charm seems inherent in the thought rather than the form.—*Charles Dudley Warner, in Harper's Magazine for March.*

THE JEWS OF RUSSIA.

When a Russian sees three men with gaunt faces, long priestly coats dangling at their heels, and a lock of hair hanging over each ear, he says, "More government spies." These Polish Jews should not be confounded with the thrifty Jews of America. They are another class of people. Their features, their manners, the cut of their hair, and the fashion of their clothing are different from what one is accustomed to see in New York. The number of blondes among them is surprisingly large. They seldom travel alone, but in companies roam the plains of Russia and Poland, ever talking, ever restless; watched, feared and hated; and they in turn, ever watching, ever hating, are never afraid, yet distrust ever lurks in their finely chiselled faces. The general opinion expressed by the Russians is that, while Polish Jews are spies by nature, they have remarkable gifts for business, and that when one of them is so fortunate as to get a considerable sum of money and embark in wheat speculations, he speedily grows rich, gathers his clannish friends about him, forms a colossal combination, through which, if not prevented by oppression or legalized conspiracy on the part of his jealous neighbours, he in time is able to control the business of his neighbourhood. It is not until one has seen these Polish Jews, watched their strangely expressive faces, and studied their peculiar character, that he appreciates that they are direct descendants of the Jews of history, who for ages suffered unspeakable outrages. The wrongs described by historians are plainly written in their faces, and as they glide noiselessly along the streets, with restless, Jesuitical countenances, one feels suspicious in spite of himself. Many of these people are undoubtedly obnoxious. I have seen a weary woman struggle through a crowd at a station to get water for her little ones, when a priestly-looking dervish snatched the cup from her hand and drank the water with the manners of a beast. Why these yellow-haired wanderers always travel in squads of three, no one explains. They swarm the country. The cruelties of centuries have given them a ferocious, hunted look, and made them as brutal as animals, yet their intellect lifts them above their oppressors, who call them "spies."—*Ralph M. Ker, in Harper's Magazine for April.*

ENGLISH IN OUR COLLEGES.

No college in the country, so far as I know, gives instruction on all matters included in the study of English in its widest sense. None provides the requisite facilities for a student who desires to master his mother tongue in its history as a language, in its completeness as a literature, and in its full scope as a means of expression with the pen and with the lips. This state of things is not, and has not been for many years, the case with Greek, Latin or mathematics. It is no longer the case with many branches of natural science, with some of the modern languages, or with some of the most ancient ones. Why should it be so with English? Why should a man who wishes to know all that is to be known about the language he is going to use all his life be at a disadvantage in the pursuit of his favourite species of knowledge, as compared with him whose tastes lead him to regions into which only a few specialists are privileged to enter?

The question answers itself. There is every reason why every college in the country should do for English all that it does for its most favoured studies; and the time will come, or I greatly misread the signs of the future, when no American institution of learning can afford to economize in this direction. Now that learned men and learned bodies are, like clergymen and churches, no longer too far above the rest of the world to be weighed in the same scales in which other men and other bodies are weighed, and to be criticised with equal freedom, they can no longer apply the

resources supplied by public or private beneficence to the nourishment of hobby horses whose bones are marrowless, in whose eyes there is either no speculation in the old sense of the word, or too much speculation in the modern sense. A college which is to live by the people must supply the education needed for the people, and for the leaders of the people; and what is so much needed as English? In these days of multifarious knowledge, of intellectual activity in so many directions, there are many things of which a man need know only the rudiments; but of English an educated man should know more than the rudiments, because—if for no other reason—everybody knows, or half knows, or thinks he knows them; because everybody deems himself capable not only of criticising the English of others, but also of writing good English himself. Therefore, educated men should know enough to be able to protect pure English against the numerous foes that beset it on every side in these days of free speech and a free press. *Noblesse oblige.* Superior advantages bind those who have enjoyed them to superior achievement in the things in which self-taught men are their competitors, as well as in the work of scholarship.—*Professor A. S. Hill, in Scribner's Magazine for April.*

SOWING AND REAPING.

Our thoughts, our words, our actions, are but seeds
Which sown at random, day by day, may yield
A harvest great of good or evil deeds,
When gathered in from off the world's rich field.

Then, let the seeds we sow to-day be pure;
They fall into the world, and, though our eyes
Grow dim, and bodies fail, they shall endure
And multiply. We reap beyond the skies.
—*E. M. K., in Christian Observer.*

ENGLISH PUBLIC SCHOOL FASHIONS.

The boys at Harrow all wear white straw hats with very broad brims, which they call "straws." These have either blue or black ribbons around their crowns, and an elastic, such as little girls wear on their hats, which the boys pull down a little way over their hair at the back of their heads. It cannot be of much use; but then, I suppose, Harrovians have always worn it, and so they still keep it, just as the Blue Coats keep their yellow stockings. The cricket "Eleven," who are looked on as the most important beings in Harrow, if not in the world, are distinguished from the others by their black and white "straws." The boys wear these hats all the year around, in winter as well as summer, changing them on Sunday for tall silk hats. The younger boys wear black jackets; but the older ones have coats made like dress-coats, and with these they wear any waist-coats and trousers they like, so that they always look as if they were in half evening dress. These coats, in the school slang, are always known as "tails." A story is told about them. Once, on a very dark night, the head-master saw about a dozen boys coming out of the village inn, where they had been positively forbidden to go. He could not see their faces, and as they all ran as soon as he spoke to them, he only succeeded in seizing one of the number. Pulling out his knife, he cut off a tail from this boy's coat and let him go, saying, "Now, sir, you may go home. I will now you in class to-morrow by this." The morning came, and the head-master waited at his desk, ready to punish his victim with great severity; for the offence was counted a very serious one. But when the boys of his form came in and passed, one by one, by his desk, each had but a single tail on his coat. They all had ruined their "tails" to save their friend.—*St. Nicholas for April.*

THE BIBLE OF INDIA.

From an article on "The Veda," by W. D. Whitney, in the April *Century*, accompanied by extracts from the Bible of India, we quote as follows: "The name Veda has grown to be a familiar one in the ears of this generation. Every educated man among us knows it as the title of a literary work, belonging to far-off India, that is held to be of quite exceptional importance by men who are studying some of the subjects that most interest ourselves. Yet there are doubtless many to whose minds the word brings but a hazy and uncertain meaning. For their sake, then, it may be well to take a general view of the Veda, to define its place in the sum of men's literary productions, and to show how and why it has the especial value claimed for it by its students."

"The Veda is the Bible of the inhabitants of India, ancient and modern; the Sacred Book of one great division of the human race. Now, leaving aside our own Bible, the first part of which was in like manner the ancient Sacred Book of one division of mankind, the Hebrew, there are many such scriptures in the world. There is the Koran of the Arabs, of which we know perfectly well the period and author; the Avesta of the Persian 'fire-worshippers,' or followers of Zoroaster; the records of ancient China, collected and arranged by Confucius; and others less conspicuous. All are of high interest, important for the history of their respective peoples and for the general history of religions; yet they lack that breadth and depth of consequence that belies to the Hindu Veda."

LAST week the Princeton Alumni of Pittsburgh and neighbourhood gave a reception to Rev. Dr. McCosh, President of Princeton College, at the Monongahela House.

THE Rev. James Brodie, of Ormiston, who died recently, was totally blind from the time he was three months old. He was ordained in 1855. He had nearly the whole Bible by heart, having a most retentive memory. He was a good singer and musician, playing skilfully on the piano and violin. His ministry was earnest and faithful, and he passed away after only a few hours' serious illness.

British and Foreign.

A CHRISTIAN science academy has been incorporated in Syracuse.

THERE is a home for intemperate women in Boston which has forty-one inmates.

UNION revival meetings at Dr. Cuyler's Church, Brooklyn, continue to increase in interest and attendance.

SIX hundred and eighty-four persons united with the Tabernacle Church of Brooklyn during the past winter.

THE Paris municipality had to feed the past winter 50,000 more unemployed, idle and dissolute persons than last.

DR. LANSDELL, the English missionary, distributed in one year no less than 56,500 Bibles among the exiles of Siberia.

THE freshmen and sophomores of Cornell University have by vote decided to have no wine at their respective class banquets.

ADVISED from Suakim state that a British war ship captured two slavers, with a cargo of sixty slaves each, going to Jeddah.

DR. A. C. MURPHY, of Crouch Hill Presbyterian Church, London, has undertaken to write the life of Dr. Fleming Stevenson.

MR. BEECHER'S farm at Peekskill, N. Y., is to be sold as early as possible. It consists of thirty-six acres, and is thought to be worth \$100,000. His library and pictures are to be sold also.

THE Rev. Dr. Meredith, of Boston, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church in Brooklyn.

THERE are about 800,000 paupers in the United Kingdom at the present time, who cost the ratepayers about eight millions of money.

LESS than a week before he died, Mr. Beecher wrote a letter in which he said: I am perfectly well, and wonder whether I shall ever grow old.

A NEW town in Texas has been named in honour of Miss Frances E. Willard, greatly to the delight of the white ribboners of the Lone Star State.

IN Massachusetts the women have the right to vote at the elections for school committees, but out of 327,500 women voters in the State, only 1,911 actually voted.

ROSA BONHEUR'S "Horse Fair" at the Stewart sale in New York was purchased by Cornelius Vanderbilt for \$5,300, and presented by him to the Museum of Art.

THE first steamer which has made the passage of the whole length of the Suez Canal by aid of the electric light has just accomplished the trip, and took only fifteen hours to do it.

DR. RAY PALMER, poet and preacher, lie at the point of death at his home in Newark, N. J. His disease is paralysis complicated with other troubles. He is over eighty years of age.

WOMEN doctors are appreciated in India. At the medical school at Agra, at which Miss Fairweather, of Chicago, has been offered the post of physician, there are sixty female pupils.

QUEEN VICTORIA has bought a large piece of land in the suburbs of Aix-les-Bains, upon which she intends to erect a chateau for the Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty will lay the corner-stone.

A MARRIAGE was solemnized lately in the cathedral church at Brechin with full choral service, being the first celebration of the kind in that ancient fabric, it is believed, for the past 200 years.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY, New York, is indeed a city of the dead. Last year 5,298 were buried there, and the whole number of burials since it was opened amount to the vast number of 237,557.

A FINE new building for the Medical Department of the Western Reserve College has been opened at Cleveland, Ohio. Over \$150,000 was given toward the construction of the building by Mr. John L. Woods.

IT is said that Governor Beaver, of Pennsylvania, is following the commendable example of Governor Lounsbury, of Connecticut, in forbidding the members of his staff to indulge in intoxicating drinks at official dinners.

THE Union Theological School at Tokio, Japan, supported by all the evangelical Protestant Churches, has nine professors and lecturers in as many different departments, two of whom, Messrs Ibuka and Ogimi, are natives.

ONE of the most novel proposals for celebrating the jubilee year is that of the villagers of Clevelands, who being badly in want of a water supply have resolved to get a new pump, to be dignified by the name of the "Jubilee Pump."

THERE is no danger of a decrease in the congregation at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. If all the clergymen, whom the press confidently assert are to fill Mr. Beecher's place, respond to their calls, the overflow from the pulpit will fill the auditorium.

THE German Emperor will go to Weisbaden for a few weeks immediately after Easter, and will there have an interview with Queen Victoria. He will also see her at Darmstadt at the formal betrothal of his grandson, Prince Henry, and the Princess Irene of Hesse.

AT a temperance meeting in Blenheim Hall, London, all the speakers were policemen, who were unanimous in asserting that they could perform their duties better without strong drink. It was stated that there are now between 2,000 and 3,000 total abstainers in the police force.

THE Travellers' Aid Society, instituted by Lady Frances Balfour, has for two years done excellent work in befriending unprotected girls and women travelling in England, and has now extended its good offices to embrace the seaport towns. Three hundred voluntary local agents are connected with the society.