

ally in the matter of education ; for while the monasteries were frequented principally by the rich, the chantry schools provided education for the middle and lower classes. Moreover they were free schools, "In them the 'ignoble and degenerate offspring' of the humblest peasant was enabled without expense to acquire that preparatory training necessary to fit him for the University." At the time of the confiscation of these houses of learning and religion, in the reign of the youthful Edward VI, many of them were supporting grammar schools, in which a training, by no means elementary, was given to the poor of the land. The most lasting result of the destruction of the chantries was "the deep and lasting wound inflicted on English society." The very basis of a system of secondary education was swept away; and England, up to the present time, has not been able to cure the "wound" thus inflicted. We recommend Fr. Holland's essay to the perusal of every one interested in the English educational question, as well as to the student of religion and sociology.

The *Acta Victoriana* is just as interesting as ever. "The Briar Rose," a poem written by Miss H. S. Albarus, is full of beauty and charm. It is the story of a maiden—the fairest flower in the hall,—who is "doomed to grief and harm" as a result of a spell cast o'er her by the fairies :

"Thou shalt grow in health and beauty,  
Till the fated hour appears ;  
Then a magic sleep shall bind thee ;  
Thou shall sleep a hundred years !"

The maiden falls asleep, and the parents are informed that nothing but love will break the fatal charm. Soon, "the fatal slumber casts its spell o'er king and queen," and one by one the courtiers, the minstrel, and the ladies grow weary. Everything about the castle is silence itself. At last the century is over. A "gallant hunter" makes his way to the castle. He finds the king seated on his throne, his consort by his side; the courtiers circled around ; but "all like statues carved in stone;" the centre of the picture is a maid of rosy light. The knight at last "wakes the sleeping beauty