

Life is a leaf of paper white
Whereon each one of us may write
His word or two; and then comes night.
Though thou have time
But for a line, be that sublime;
Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

J. R. Lowell.

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still travelling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men. *Longfellow.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Deliver not the tasks of might
To weakness, neither hide the ray
From those, no, blind, who wait for day,
Thou' sitting girl with doubtful light.

"That from Discussion's lips may fall
With Life, that working strongly, binds—
Set in all lights, by many minds,
So close the interests of all."

Last year the Minister of Education took the trouble on more than one occasion to tell the people of Ontario, and particularly the parents, that they were responsible for the pressure of studies existing in our schools. If there were unwholesome conditions in the schools of the province, the responsibility for such a state of affairs did not rest on the Minister but on the parents. In the course of his addresses he did not allow the teachers to escape, but pointedly blamed them for the race, which has arisen in our schools, to pass examinations of various kinds.

The Education Department in all its movements in the conduct of the schools was simply and solely endeavouring to give effect to the wishes and demands of the electorate and the teachers in the schools. If the results were unsatisfactory and disappointing, which all admit, they had themselves to blame, not the Department, much less the Minister of Education; for he was their servant and did their bidding. Thus spoke the Minister. No doubt there is some force in this plea. If the function of the Minister is only to register the wish of the electorate, this and nothing more, then his defence is unanswerable.

One of the most perplexing duties a master has to deal with is advising a scholar which course of studies he should select. The more courses of study he has to choose from the more perplexing and onerous the duty becomes. In our schools the difficulty has been increased since the introduction of the division in the examination for matriculation and teachers' certificates. Little relief, if any, can be given by any amount of circumlocution office work: such as putting, or rather seeking to put, the burden of decision upon the trustee. In a short time the question comes back to the principal and often heavier than at the beginning. We print for the consideration of our readers a proposal submitted by the Minister of Education to the House of Assembly at its last session on this subject.

2. Subsection 1 of section 10 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

10.—(1) In every High School, subject to the conditions in subsection (2) hereinafter set forth and subject to the regulations of the Education Department, instruction shall be given in the following courses of study: (1) A general course consisting of advanced instruction in the ordinary branches of