

Blithe Spring follows, lavishing on every hand her floral beauties, and with her voice of resurrection, calls back verdure and life from the trance into which it was cast by the paralyzing hand of winter.

Summer spreads gay profusion with a bountiful hand, and decks even the barren wastes with a beauty that surpasses the glory of Solomon.

Then Autumn approaches with her rich fruition of waving harvests, painting the forests in colors so glowing and varied, that they baffle the utmost skill of the artist; and over this is cast a mantle of hazy mist, that lends a happy enchantment to the whole.

Arising in the morning, man sees the King of Day coming forth from the chambers of the East, and as he appears the first streaks of light shooting up in the eastern sky, tinges the clouds with a crimson glory. Retiring he sees him sinking in the western sky in all his dying splendor, and capping with his farewell glance, the distant mountain tops with a crown of light.

Thus man at all times, and in all places, is surrounded by this beautiful imagery.

Why did the all-wise One thus surround him? Why was he gifted with this love for the beautiful? The reason is evident. Like all the works of God, it is for the benefit of man, to ennoble him, and direct his aspirations upward, to mould his character for great and glorious actions, to fill his mind with sentiments of love and beneficence. Taking this view of it, how necessary it is for us to cultivate this great gift.

Children should be surrounded with beautiful objects. Our schools and institutions of learning should be located with this object in view, their interiors should be tastefully fitted up. We should seek to render our homes attractive, in external surroundings and within.

The more then, that man is enabled to gratify this love for the beautiful, which has been so deeply implanted within him, in such proportion will his love for nature increase, and the true and the noble in his nature be strengthened. Many may think this a small matter, but it wields a mighty influence in the world, in the formation of both the mental and moral character of men around us.

EXAMINATIONS AT HORTON ACADEMY.

THE Terminal Examinations of this Institution took place on Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th Dec. The increasing interest in the exercises was manifest from the large number of visitors present. Parents of pupils, and friends from far and near flocked together,

and at both sessions the Hall was crowded. The Principal kindly sent an invitation during the previous week to the College students, and many of them showed their appreciation of his thoughtfulness by their presence and attention.

We have attended many Academical examinations, but that we never attended a better one, we do not hesitate to say. In all the subjects excellence was visible.

The first thing on the Programme was an examination of the classes in Mathematics under Mr. Coldwell. The Geometry, Algebra, and Arithmetic, were so well done that we dare not discriminate between the relative merits of the execution of any one of them. The demonstrations by some of the young ladies were superior, and equalled only by those of the young men who expect to enter College in June. The teachers evidently understand their business; for true education, a drawing out, a development, was observable in the scholars.

Of the Ethics and Logic taught by Mr. Tufts, we cannot speak in too laudatory terms. The young men who study these branches will have laid a good foundation for the prosecution of those studies in the more recondite parts of the mental sciences, which are included in the College Curriculum. We know our failings, and are not ignorant of our tendency to over-estimate the performances of young ladies, but we dispassionately and impartially aver that, in our opinion, their answers to the questions in these branches betokened a depth of thought and habit of observation far beyond their years.

The readings and declamations were well executed, and if any one could possibly feel a weariness in the routine of examinations, these were well calculated to overcome it. Miss. Woodworth, we believe, has charge of this department, and we heartily congratulate her on the efficiency of her pupils.

The thorough philosophical view which the class has obtained of Grecian History evinces the ability of Prof. Tufts in that province which he has made a specialty.

The examinations in Classics tell their own story, and if all our readers had been present, we should say no more of them. The Xenophon class, under Mr. Coldwell, showed a mastery of the subject. As regards the class in Virgil, which numbers thirty-five, taught by the Principal, we know not how to express ourselves. They were examined in *all* parts of the book, and there was not a single failure. They have studied Latin thoroughly—grammatically, philologically, geographically, and historically.

The essays by Misses Gilmore and Fitch were well written and delivered, and that the audience highly appreciated

them, was manifest from the frequent applause.

At the close of the exercises, speeches were delivered by Revs. D. Freeman, S. B. Kempton, Prof. D. M. Welton, and J. Neiley; and the universal sentiment seemed to be that they had left the Academy twenty or thirty years too soon. The Principal, Mr. Tufts, then addressed his students in a few well-timed, touching, words, thanking them for their sympathy, co-operation and support, and asking them to leave by their mighty influence the thirty or forty, who would join them after Christmas. He then dismissed the school, and more than a hundred Academicians, freed from study, at once prepared for their departure. We wish them all, teachers and pupils, a happy Christmas!

MAN.

MAN is the only being capable of advancing toward perfection. The human mind more nearly approaches the infinite mind, than any other part of creation. Formed with social principles, "no man liveth to himself"; none so elevated, none so obscure, as to be entirely secluded from society. Every being has an important mission in this world, and such is the arrangement of the human family, that the department of one has an influence over the conduct of others; therefore not only *our own* happiness but the happiness of *many* may be secured by right precepts and good examples. To be qualified for the duties of life we must be educated: no flagging energy must prevail if we would surmount the hill of difficulty and write our names legibly at the top of the highest pinnacle of fame. Glance over the pages of history for examples of perseverance in the search of knowledge; to encourage the faithful and cheer the desponding, many bright names will appear. Let "Excelsior" be the countersign of every emergency.

Why should the rich watered diamond be hidden in the earth? Bring it out intrust it to the care of the lapidary, and when polished place it in some conspicuous portion of the imperial Crown to vie with kindred beauties in eliciting admiration from the enraptured multitude.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We wish to thank those of our subscribers, who, to encourage us in our undertaking, have remitted us more than the price of their subscription. We assure them and all who feel similarly disposed that their \$1 or \$2 cheer us, as oases the weary traveller, and incite us to still greater earnestness in making our paper worthy of their generous support.