

POPE-ISMS.

Party is the madness of many, for the gain of a few.

That character in conversation which commonly passes for agreeable is made up of civility and falsehood.

Many men have been capable of doing a wise thing, more a cunning thing, but very few a generous thing.

Our passions are like convulsion-fits, which, though they make us stronger for the time, leave us the weaker ever after.

It is with narrow soul'd people as with narrow-neck'd bottles; the less they have in them the more noise they make in pouring it out.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.

To pardon those absurdities in ourselves which we cannot suffer in others is neither better nor worse than to be more willing to be fools ourselves than to have others so.

The world is a thing we must of necessity either laugh at or be angry at: if we laugh at it, they say we are proud; if we are angry at it, they say we are ill-natured.

Fine sense and exalted sense are not half so useful as common sense. There are forty men of wit for one man of sense; and he that will carry nothing about him but gold will be every day at a loss for want of readier change.

To buy books as some do who make no use of them, only because they were published by an eminent printer, is much as if a man should buy clothes that did not fit him, only because they were made by some famous tailor.

We ought in humanity no more to despise a man for the misfortunes of the mind than for those of the body, when they are such as he cannot help. Were this thoroughly considered, we should no more laugh at one for having his brains cracked than for having his head broke.

It is not so much the being exempt from faults as having overcome them that is an advantage to us; it being with the follies of the mind as with the weeds of a field, which, if destroyed and consumed upon the place of their birth, enrich and improve it more than if none had ever sprung there.

Correspondence.

"THE MARKING SYSTEM."

MESSRS. EDITORS,—My attention having been attracted to a communication on the above subject which appeared in the March number of your paper, with your permission I will ask the indulgence of your readers to a brief continuation of the discussion begun by Nemesis.

To use the language of Nemesis, "it is one thing to admit an error and quite another thing to reform it," but it must be patent to all that Nemesis has neither proved the existence of the error nor proposed a plan for reforming what he conceives to be wrong.

By regarding the marking system as an end in itself he misleads himself and his readers by a misconception of the use and purpose of the system against which he contends. This system is a means to an end, a mere instrument for the accomplishment of a purpose. Under it, the "main end of study" remains the same as without it, and the only question is whether the end is furthered by the means employed. Nor is there anything in the nature of the system to debar the student from attaining the ideal heights of student ambition which Nemesis pictures. On the contrary, the confessed results are all in the line of stimulus and incentive, and if the motive of making a good mark be deemed "paltry" by some, it can only be in the sense that any one part of a piece of mechanism may be comparatively unimportant to other parts, or to the purpose to be accomplished by all.

It is true that a man under the marking system, without proper judgment or self control, may make high marks his sole end of study, but if so, does experience show that he is injured by it? It is by no means a general rule that the student who stands well at college fails to make the same success in life, and the occasional instances of this kind are but the exceptions which proves the almost universal rule that the good student makes the successful man. Even if this rule be excepted to (which can hardly be), it only shows that the system is open to abuse, when such use is made of it, and what system is not? That a good thing may be abused, is a poor argument against it.

The assertion of Nemesis that the marking system implies "lower aims" is not borne out by facts nor experience. If to excel be a lower aim, then such an assertion is entitled to weight. If, as