

PROF. CLAWSON.

(Continued from second page.)

Professor Stockley was particularly successful in this method of teaching. No student of his will ever forget the charm of his lectures. The informal, almost conversational tone; the absence of rigid system; the appreciative reading; the apt illustrations; the wealth of literary knowledge shown by many citations from English and continental literature; the knowledge of men and affairs; the keen judgment; the philosophic detachment and the air of otherworldliness that pervaded his words are but partial explanations of the attractiveness of his personality. Every earnest student who listened to him for four years, went away with a new conception of the worth and meaning of literature.

After the conducting of lectures and recitations we have to consider the assignment of passages to be learned by heart. On the importance of this work, Professor Stockley would often insist. He believed that the storing the memory with the best poetry was essential to the formation of a delicate taste; and it was his frequent advice to his honour students that they should learn the whole of Palgrave's "Golden Treasury" by heart. If few can adopt this "counsel of perfection" all may during their college course acquire lines of the best poetry which will recur to them in after years with perpetual charm.

Of all arrangements of courses and reading, that arrangement is preferable which gives the student during his four years' course a connected idea of the development and progress of English literature. Earlier works, of course, without special study of Anglo-Saxon and Middle English can be presented only through translations. But the story of the old English and their epic poetry, of their hero, King Alfred and his literary labours, and of the effect of the Norman conquest on their language may be presented in lectures in an interesting way.

The language of Chaucer presents comparatively few difficulties and the student's survey of English literature should certainly include the reading of some of the Canterbury Tales. In Chaucer the student will find a realistic portrayal of the knights, clergy, merchants and labourers of the brilliant, stirring half-medieval, half-modern fourteenth century. What is more, he will find in him a delightful storyteller, a consummate artist, and a lovable character.

The age of Chaucer marks the beginning of two great European movements, the Revival of learning and the Reformation. The essential points of their development must be explained before we reach "the spacious halls of great Elizabeth." Here though dazzled by the excess of brightness we have no difficulty in choosing four writers whom a general course may in no wise omit. "Spenser moving through his clouded heaven

With the moon's beauty and the moon's soft pace" should be sparingly presented. His highly elaborated artistic form, his love of allegory, his exalted and ideal mingling of Platonism and Christianity attract only the few.

But Shakespeare speaks to all. "Wide, placid, far-seeing," as the sun he shines with mild equable radiance on the whole of human life; and there is no man to whom, in some way, he does not appeal. Two plays each year will present some of the greatest features of his many-sided genius.

Bacon is valuable for the weighty conciseness of his style and for the vigour and breadth of his intellect. His essays are models of strong, terse expression and clear thought.

Milton, more than any other English writer, has the quality of lofty and sustained earnestness. This quality, united to the organ-like harmonies of his verse, the richness and delicacy of his colouring, and the classic finish of his workmanship makes him our second great English poet.

"The eighteenth century," which literary historians illogically but conveniently assume to begin in 1660, is above all characterized in literature by common sense united to strict form. These qualities, coming into contact with the sociable, rationalistic French spirit, produced a great literature. Their union with the independent, imaginative English genius was less happy. But we could ill spare the ringing strength of Dryden, the polished grace of Pope the ease, deftness and sympathy of Addison, and Steele, the savage vigour of Swift, the weighty sententiousness of Johnson, the winning artlessness of Goldsmith, and the profound, political philosophy of Burke.

The Romantic Revival begins in the flood-tide of the 18th century, with the poetry of Thomson, Collins and Gray, followed by Cowper and Burns. Then come the names of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Scott, Byron, Shelley and Keats, suggesting all the stir and ferment of Revolutionary Europe and all the glow of the new enthusiasm for nature, "local colour" and the middle ages.

In the Victorian period, to which we are introduced by the works of Thomas Carlyle, the interest centres upon questions of economics, of science, of philosophy, and of religion. Carlyle contrasts the economic conditions of past and present. Ruskin works out the relations of art and mortality. Arnold insists that poetry must be a criticism of life. Tennyson and Browning speculates on life with varying, though hopeful, conclusions. Thus at the close of our survey we find literature in close union with other branches of human thought and giving a final proof of its value.

III. But the appreciation of good literature is merely one object of a literary education. The ability to express one's thoughts with clearness and force is of equal importance. Without careful training in

rhetoric and composition, a literary course degenerates into mere careless unprofitable reading. "Reading maketh a full man," says Bacon, "conference a ready man; and writing an exact man." And it is the student's first duty to be exact. Now, exactness of thought and expression can be obtained only by constant practice in writing under the unwearied supervision and correction of the instructor.

Let me instance briefly the department of composition and rhetoric at Harvard University, as an example of what may be accomplished in this connection.

A course in English composition and rhetoric is made obligatory for all freshmen. The class of about 500 is divided into six sections, each of which is sub-divided into three or more parts. An instructor has charge of each section and an assistant of each part. Besides a thorough training in the theory and principles of composition imparted by lectures and text-books, the students obtain daily practice. A short theme must be written and submitted each day, a longer theme each fortnight, and one long theme during the year. These themes, after criticism and personal conference with the assistant, are returned to the students, to be re-written, if necessary.

From this course, and others more advanced, has resulted such skill and precision in writing as to give distinctive position to Harvard English, and the founder of the system, Professor A. S. Hill, and to set up Harvard methods as an example for others to follow.

The system of daily themes is more than we could expect here; but if the professor of English could give all his time to that subject it would be perfectly possible to have weekly or fortnightly themes, and conferences in the freshman year instead of one or two themes a term as at present. The result would be an elevation of the whole standard of college work. Under the stimulus of revision and conference, students would make greater efforts towards accuracy; individualistic spelling and chaotic grammar would cease to be so lamentably common; the literary courses would be better appreciated; and the addition of a course in argument and debating would aid the students in the intercollegiate debates.

IV. The reasons for the inclusion in a literary training of French and German are as strong as ever. France is no longer the leading power of Europe, her language is to some extent giving place to English as a medium of international communication and it may be that her national greatness is declining. But she remains the centre of European ideas. The thoughts of Europe must still come to France for expression. With ten centuries of a glorious past behind her she still offers to the world her gifts of wit, good sense and a clear limpid style. Her rival, the meditative and romantic Germany of the middle ages with her feudal barons and enchanted forests, has become the great, practical, industrious, well-armed empire. Under the lead of fearlessly independent thinkers she has outstripped the technical training and in the laboratory of science she has achieved brilliant successes of her scientific investigation.

The aim of instruction in a modern language in a general course should be neither proficiency in speech nor in composition. Such proficiency can scarcely be attained in the two or three hours a week for four years. It takes two years of continuous residence in France or Germany to learn to speak French or German accurately and fluently, and it is impossible to write good French or German without having first read a great deal. Conversation and composition should be studied therefore, not as ends in themselves, but as means to an end, namely the ability to read French or German without translation.

(Continued on fourth page.)

Unique Public House.

In a busy thoroughfare in Glasgow there is a fully licensed public house, which is probably the smallest establishment of its kind in the kingdom. When full it can just accommodate eight customers. It is nicknamed the "Coffin," and the regular habitués give the various drinks, etc., names to correspond. A whisky is a "nail," a pint of beer a "lid," and brandy and soda is a "monument." The sandwiches are dubbed "gravestones" and the cigarettes "worms."

Mutual Distrust.

"A genius," said the young man with long hair and eyeglasses, "usually regards the world as a balky mule." "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "and the world usually regards a genius as a horse that is trying to run away."

Things Worth Remembering.

Do not forget that it isn't necessary to be disagreeable in order to disagree with the other man.

If we took as great pains to say kind things as we do to think unkind ones, life would be one long metaphorical May.

The Limit.

"How much will you give me for a novel of 40,000 words?" "Let me see," replied the editor. "You ought to get six months for that!"

Storms.

"Allbone says he can foretell storms." "He can not only tell them. He can cause them."

"How?"

"By staying out till midnight."

Strong Love.

Patience—How do you know her love for him was strong? Patrice

The more you say the less people respect you.

THE FORCE OF FEAR.

Fright Was the Cause of the Death of Frederick I. of Prussia.

There are several well authenticated cases where fright was the cause of death. An English surgeon tells of a drummer in India across whose legs a harmless lizard crawled while he was half asleep. He was sure that a cobra had bitten him, and it was too much for his nerves, and he died.

Frederick I. of Prussia was killed by fear. His wife was insane, and one day she escaped from her keeper and, dabbling her clothes with blood, rushed upon her husband while he was dozing in his chair. King Frederick imagined her to be the white lady whose ghost was believed to invariably appear whenever the death of a member of the royal family was to occur, and he was thrown into a fever and died in six weeks.

But perhaps the most remarkable death from fear was that of the Dutch painter Pentman, who lived in the seventeenth century. One day he went into a room full of anatomical subjects to sketch some skulls and bones for a picture he intended to paint. The weather was very sultry, and while sketching he fell asleep. He was aroused by bones dancing around him and the skeletons suspended from the ceiling clashing together. In a fit of terror he threw himself out of the window. Though he sustained no serious injury and was informed that a slight earthquake had caused the commotion among the ghastly surroundings, he died of nervous tremor.

THE WREN BUSH.

An Old Custom Still Observed in Ireland at Christmas.

Among the many odd customs still observed in Ireland at Christmas few are more curious than the practice of carrying about "the wren bush" on St. Stephen's day, and antiquaries are puzzled to explain why the poor little "king of all birds" should be put to death on the festival of the first martyr.

The most probable explanation is that the wren was sacred to the Druids and was used by them in divination and other pagan rites at the festival of the winter solstice, which almost coincided with Christmas, and consequently the clergy urged their converts to destroy the birds which were associated with such unholy rites, just as St. Patrick's relentless destruction of the images of serpents, used in the ancient pagan worship of Ireland, gave rise to the legend that he—

Gave the snakes and toads a twist
And banished them all forever!

This seems the more likely, because "dreen," the old Irish name for "wren," also means "a Druid," and old folk still call "Jenny" the "Druid bird" and say that she has the gift of prophecy and that those who can interpret her twittings as she hovers about a house or flies from bush to bush can read the future. In the library of Trinity college, Dublin, there is a curious document describing how to interpret the notes of the wren.—Maud E. Sargent in Longman's Magazine.

Lawyers and the Law.

I expect it'd be only a poor lawyer couldn't argue a tack into a cow—n' out of her again, too, f'r that matter—'n' Mr. Weskin ain't no poor lawyer. He's fine 's they make. Of course a good deal of the time no one knows what he means, but that ain't nothin' ag'in him, f'r I think with a lawyer you generally don't. It's a part of their business not to let no one know what they mean, f'r 'f law was simple no one'd ever get fooled.

It takes another lawyer to see what a lawyer is doin', anyhow. When a lawyer says anything is so to me I never take no time to disbelieve him, 'cause he'd never got to be in the law a tall if he wan't able to prove the truth of his own lyin'.—Susan Clegg and Her Friend, Mrs. Lathrop, by Anne Warner.

Religious Measure in Montreal.

Dr. J. Everist Cathell, a clergyman of Des Moines, Ia., was spending a few days in Montreal while off on a holiday. He visited the different churches and in one of them noticed an odd arrangement of the prayer desks. Wishing to understand the reason, he looked around for the sexton. No one was about except a workman in the rear of the church. Approaching him, Dr. Cathell said: "My man, I am an American clergyman and have found much of interest in these Canadian churches. But there is something here that I do not understand. Can you tell me if this is a 'high church' or not?"

The workman considered the question seriously for a moment and then replied: "I never heard that question asked before, sir, but I believe it is thirty-five feet to the ridgepole."—Lippincott's.

The Indians of Canada.

The Indian population in Canada last year, according to figures from the Indian Department report, numbered 107,978, a net decrease of 255 as compared with the year 1903. The report points out that it is a fallacy to suppose that the Indians are a dying race, doomed to extinction before the advance of civilization. Facts and statistics fail to support this view. In every province except British Columbia the birth rate exceeds the death rate.

A Case of Quality.

A clever little gentleman well known in the scientific world was one day standing with half a dozen tall men when one of them turned to him and said that he had not seen him before, as he was so very small.

"Very likely," replied the little gentleman. "I am like a sixpence among six copper pennies—not easily perceived, but worth the whole six together."—London Standard.

Said "Good-bye"

To His Family.

Dying of Weakness—Given up by Doctors as an Incurable and Hopeless Wreck.

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Mrs. Neil MacEachran, 96 years of age, who resides near Gaharua, Cape Breton, celebrated her birthday anniversary a few days ago, and besides helping to get tea for the party she danced the Highland fling to bag-pipe music and sang a Gaelic song for her visiting friends.

Pretty good sort of an ally is Japan for Great Britain. The two nations combining their forces could make a fair attempt at conquering the rest of creation.

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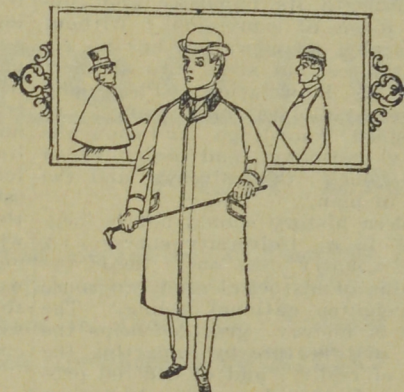
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