Thought.

BY J. C. EARLE.

How many thoughts are pictures to the mind
Of him who thinks them, and sweet rhythm, too, while others in their form no beauty find,
Nor hear the harmony they breathe to you!
Yet be not therefore to yourself less true,
They think the best who think not with mankind,
Who hear what others hear not, and who view
Strange things, to which all other eyes are blind.
So let your course run in and out the stars,
And deeper dive than the deep-rolling sea;
If you can mark the time of your own bars,
What matter who may follow, who may flee?
Think your own music, and despite their jars,
Tune within tune, let tune with tune agree.

A Letter From Isaac Pitman.

The SCHOLASTIC has been honored with an autograph article from Mr. Isaac Pitman, of Bath, England, which we publish this week. Mr. Pitman is well known, the world over, as the inventor of Phonography, and, in conjunction with Mr. Ellis, the author of a phonetic alphabet of the English language by which its every sound and articulation can be represented with a clearness and simplicity that effectually do away with the labor of spelling. The great defect of our language is its absurd orthography. In the first place, we have not a sufficient number of vowel signs. There are fourteen vowel sounds in spoken English, and to express these we have but five signs or letters. If we take the entire range of English vowels, we shall find that there are five simple vowels and 83 combinations of vowels, with 381 meanings, as has been shown in a table prepared by W. E. A. Axon, M. R. S. L., F. S. S., in the Quarterly Journal of Science for July, 1873. In the second place, while there are no consonant signs enough to express English sounds, our orthography carries a dead-weight of superfluous letters that seem to have no other object than to confuse the learner. Two useful signs used in the old English—th in thin, think, and th in them, thence, thither—have been dropped. These Mr. Pitman has replaced. As Mr. Axon truthfully remarks, the object of all alphabetic writing is the representation of spoken sounds. For this purpose it is essential that we should have a symbol for each sound, and that that symbol be used with regularity and consistency. An analysis of the spoken sounds of our language shows that we have thirty-eight distinct sounds (including the two vowel diphthongs, long i and u, and the two consonantal diphthongs ogh, j), and that for the representation of these we have but twenty-six letters, three of them mere duplicates. This has led to the device of using two or more letters to indicate a single sound. Had this been done with uniformity, all would have been well, but, unfortunately, no system has been followed, and an examination of 3,000 monosyllables has shown 145 different methods of indicating the fourteen vowel and diphthong-vowel sounds. All these combinations of letters that represent only one sound are virtually one letter, and Mr. Pitman shows in a tabulated summary that the number of combinations now used to express imperfectly, and in a circuitous way, a few simple sounds in the spoken language, is above 200. This and other like imperfections, that form a conglomeration of absurdities, drew from the late Lord Lytton the remark that, "A more lying, round-about, puzzle-headed delusion than that by which we confuse the clear instincts of truth in our accursed system of spelling was never concocted by the father of falsehood... How," he asks, "can a system of education flourish that begins by so monstrous a falsehood, which the sense of hearing suffices to contradict?" It is related of Voltaire that when, in his painful effort to learn English, he discovered that the letters g-u-e spell ague, a word of two syllables, but that, if you increased the length by adding two more letters, and so got p-i-a-g-u-e, the word became one syllable, and was pronounced plague (plag), he threw the book across the room, fairly danced in Franco-philological rage, and wished in his own bitter way that one half of the English nation might have the ague and the other half the plague (plague). "Of course," adds Prof. Max Müller,—from whom we have the story,—"Voltaire was a man of too highly peppery a temperament to be commended as a model; still, what rational conclusion ought to be drawn from the spectacle of a grown man, a philosopher, going off into such a fury over the bite of one sporadic mosquito out of the countless swarms that for years on years are singing around and inflaming the blood of all the little innocents in the schools... The question then, that will have to be answered sooner or later is this: Can this unsystematic system of spelling English be allowed to go on forever? Is every English child, as compared with other children, to be mulcted in two or three years of his life in order to learn it? Are the lower classes to go through school without learning to read and write their own language intelligently? And is the country to pay millions every year for this utter failure of national education? I do not believe that such a state of things will be allowed to continue forever, particularly as a remedy is at hand—a remedy that has now been tested for twenty or thirty (forty) years, and that has answered extremely well, I mean Pitman's system of phonetic writing, as applied to English."

Thus far Prof. Max Müller, Professor of Philology in
in the University of Oxford, and the prince of modern philologists. Professors Sayce and Earle of Oxford, and Prof. Skeat, Anglo-Saxon Professor at Cambridge University, are also ardent advocates of the reform. To these may be added Drs. Morris and Murray, and Messrs. Ellis and Sweet, all Presidents, past or present, of the British Philological Society; Sir Charles Reed, President of the London School Board; Dr. Norman Kerr, Rev. Russell Martineau, Dr. J. H. Gladstone, and Mr. Chadwick. On this side of the Atlantic it found no less warm advocates in Professor Whitney of Yale, the late lamented Prof. Haldeman, of Pennsylvania University, Prof. March, and others. Of the distinguished Professor at the head of the English department at Harvard, the college boys, rightly or wrongly, narrate that he fairly exulted when they spelt outrageously, and hoped that, like so many Hampdens standing out against ship-money, they would keep on doing the same till the reform was instituted.

This subject of a reform in spelling is one well suited for the consideration of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for every mother in English-speaking countries. It is emphatically a "question on which to enlist the sympathies of women. It is not an abstruse one. It is one concrete with the tears, weariness and headaches of children. . . . Let them get up an agitation in every household and schoolroom, and raise the cry, 'King Herod and his minions are braining the innocents with spelling-list the sympathies of women. It is not an abstruse one. It is one concrete with the tears, weariness and headaches of children. Let them get up an agitation in every household and schoolroom, and raise the cry, 'King Herod and his minions are braining the innocents with spelling,' and hoped that, like so many Hampdens standing out against ship-money, they would keep on doing the same till the reform was instituted.

We will acknowledge, for ourselves, that only a short time ago we thought Mr. Pitman's new method of spelling a barbarous one, and not to be thought of as an expedient and his minions are braining the innocents with spelling-list the sympathies of women. It is not an abstruse one. It is one concrete with the tears, weariness and headaches of children. Let them get up an agitation in every household and schoolroom, and raise the cry, 'King Herod and his minions are braining the innocents with spelling,' and hoped that, like so many Hampdens standing out against ship-money, they would keep on doing the same till the reform was instituted.

These degrases ar used in Semifonotipi az in ordinari printing.

It may be wel tu eksplain the use ov the vouezl more futur. Ther ar onli feiv vouel teips in our langwej, "u, e, i, o, u," and they ar most frekwentl emploid tu ekspres short soundz, az in

man, men, nip, not, but, put.

The last vouel haz two funkshonz, az in "pulpy," (5), "puplit" (56). These feiv vouezl ar also used tu reprezent long soundz, az in

father, favor, machine, cocoa, — truly, and herein leiz wun ov the difficultiz, but bei no meanz the prinzipal wun, ov English spelling. There iz no indikation on the printed paje ov different soundz being reprezent on theje feiv letierz in "cap, capable; me, meter; invalid, invalid (invalided); pot, potent; dug, duty. Hwel do we not say "dug, dutty," az wel az "pit, pity."? The truth iz we lay the meaning ov "u" in "but, put" upon the ferst konsonant ov each wurd.

Tu reprezent a long vouel in a reformed spelling we must 1. Diuplikate the short vouezl; in feiw kasez out ov slikz; as, as (ms), ee (there), ii (seen), nooth (note), uu (food); or 2. Uze kombinashonz; az, az (father), ai (maid fair); ee (feet) aw, ao, oo, oo (law, ludo, broud), oh, oo, or, oo (vote, soap, foe), oo (food); or 3. Introdius siks niu teips formd on the model ov the old wunz; az

a, e, i, o, u.

father, fate, feec, feet, fall, fool.

(Ferst staje ov the Speling Reform.)

The Speling Reform.

From Bissak Pitman, Bath, England.—Ei send a short ar-tikel for the Notke Dame Scholastik, kopid from this week's Fonetik Jurnal, in parshiall reformed spelling—az far az we kan go without niu teips. It iz kalld Semifonotipi. Your readers wil obzer that in this Ferst Staje ov the Speling Reform, our langwej iz reprezentet fonetikali tu this ekstent:

—Each konsonant iz keifind tu the reprezentashon ov wun sound, and everi short vouel and diphong iz alwayz eksprest bei its proper karakter, hwel the long vouelz re-main in their present variety ov spellings, eksept dat a fia amonaliz, az "receive, believe," (receive, beleve), "move, prove," (moov, proov), ar korektet. Ther ar, however, two eksephonz tu this jeeneral statement. Wun konsonant, "th," and wun vouel teip, "u," reprezent two soundz each, nameli those in "this, thistle, but, put." We hav tu chooz between the introdiukshon ov niu teips and the giving ov a diupliket reprezentashon tu "th" and "u." The stiell ov reformed spelling most leikli tu be aksepted bel printerz in the infanai ov the reform, iz wun dat will giv them no trubel in geting niu teips, or oltering old wunz. Hwen the publiik el haz been for sum teim akustomd tu the squeanz ov wurdz az prezentet in Semifonotipi, no objekshon will be felt tu taking the further step ov introdiuind niu leters for the long vouezl, and for the siks konsonants ch (chin), th (thin), th (then), sh (wish), zh (vision), ng (long),
Art, Music, and Literature.

—Whittier, the Quaker poet—it is said—invested his first earnings in a copy of Shakspeare.

—It is reported that M. Coquelin has received the decoration of Chevalier de St. Jacques from the King of Portugal.

—The death is announced of Richard Brinsley Knowles, the only surviving son of the dramatist, James Sheridan Knowles.

—A facsimile of the statue of St. Peter at Rome has just been executed at Paris by M. Froc-Robert, being a gift by Leo. XIII to the French Church in Boston.

—The Polos at Cracow have just put up a bust to the patriot and poet Mickiewicz, who during his exile in Rome was the intimate friend of James Fenimore Cooper and enjoyed the rare distinction of having his works translated into Persian.

—to a recent visitor, a young beginner in literature, Henry W. Longfellow said: "Always write your best"—repeating it, with his hand upraised—"remember, your best. Keep your book, and print it for yourself. It will be of great service to you."

—Bret Harte pleads not guilty to the charge of pirating some of Lanigan's fables. The book bearing his name was printed without his knowledge, and he finds on examining it has only five pieces written by himself; the remainder of the work, some fifty pieces, being by somebody else. Bret Harte is a little tardy in this disclaimer.

—Of some of the most successful songs and song-writers, Church's Musical Visitor says: "Speaking of the circulation and pecuniary profit of songs, the writer says: One of the most popular songs is 'My Grandfather's Clock,' by Henry C. Work, the author also of 'Marching Through Georgia,' on which the royalty a year ago had amounted to $4,000. A song less widely known, but one that has had a like success, is 'Tenting on the Old Camp Ground,' by Walter Kittredge, of New Hampshire, which was written in the early days of the civil war, and whose sale has already reached hundreds of thousands of copies. Charles Dibden's 'Poor Jack' was sold to a publisher by its author, with some other songs, for $500, but had long since netted the publisher upwards of $25,000. It has been reported that Stephen C. Foster, the author of 'Old Folks at Home,' got nearly $15,000 out of that sweet plantation melody. This, Mrs. Johnson says, is not the fact, but it is true that he realized something like $20,000 from all of his compositions. E. P. Christy, of negro minstrel fame, paid $400 for the privilege of printing his own name and his own composition on a single issue of 'Old Folks at Home.' Foster composed between two and three hundred songs, words and music, more, it is said, than any other American; and many of them were first written on pieces of brown wrapping paper in the back room of a down town New York grocery. Of his 'Old Dog Tray' 125,000 copies were sold in eighteen months. This was almost a parallel success to that of John Howard Payne's 'Home, Sweet Home,' of which 100,000 copies were sold in a single year, and out of which the publisher netted $10,000 in the first two years of sale. Many of our best-known songs were impromptu compositions. 'A Life on the Ocean Wave' came to its author, Epes Sargent, naturally enough, as he sat one morning on the Battery looking off over the harbor of New York. Henry Russell, who composed the music to fit the words, sat down for that purpose at a piano in a Broadway music-store, and hit the melody after a moment's fumbling at the keys. The copyright of the song became very valuable, though Mr. Sargent never got anything from it. Dr. Thomas Dunn English's 'Ben Bolt' was a similarly happy and sudden thought, struck out to oblige his friend George P. Morris, who wanted a song for the New York Mirror, markable extemporization, though in a very different poetic key, was Bishop Heber's 'I see them on their Winding Way;' which he composed one evening to suit a march played by a favorite cousin who was visiting in his family."

—The Musical Record (published by Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston) is a regular weekly visitor to our sanctuary, and we have no doubt our embryo musicians enjoy its well-selected articles, sketches and anecdotes relating to music and musicians. Each number of the Record contains from six to eight pages of music, of which it may be enough to say that it comes from Oliver Ditson & Co., and is selected by Mr. Drexler Smith. From an interesting article on "Patti as a Critic" we take the following piece of advice to young singers:

"At this point the fair songstress was interrupted by the entrance of four ladies, a well-known music teacher and three of her pupils, who desired to pay their respects to the famous singer.

"The music teacher expressed the desire that Madame Patti should hear her pupils sing, to which the Diva responded by repeatedly kissing the young ladies and calling each by name; then raising the piano lid by means of an escutcheon and placing a fan on it until the trial."

"Now don't be frightened," she remarked to the young lady at the instrument. 'Just sing as if no one was around.

"Thus encouraged, the pupil sang 'Funiculário,' in very fair style.

"Now I am going to have you sing that song very much better," exclaimed Patti, at the conclusion of the air. 'But you must pronounce each word in full, and distinctly. Now go on, once more. Just pretend that I am deaf, and can't hear.'"

"Once again the young pupil sang, and improvement was at once remarked by every one in the room.

"'Oh! you little dear, that's splendid; I knew you could get better,' exclaimed Patti, enthusiastically. 'Now don't for do this suggestion—always rang your words clearly and distinctly.'"
New Publications.

—Donahoe's Magazine for February is, as usual, replete with interesting matter. The following is the table of contents: I, Portrait of Washington.—Early History of the United States.—The Star of the Nation; II, The Flower of Finch; IV, The Jesuits and their Persecutors; III, The Householder; V, The Golden Jubilee of the Sisters of Mercy; VI, The Augustinians of Dublin and their New Church; VII, Molly Vaughan, Sequel of an Eviction; VIII, The History of a Planet; IX, The School Question; X, True to His Memory; XI, From Elizabeth to Victoria; XII, French Estimate of Parnell; XIII, Anecdotes of the Late Archbishop McHale; XIV, A Irish Soldier in the Rebellion; XV, The Poet laureate; XVI, Poems on "Believe Me, if all those Endearing Young Charms;" XVII, A Small-pox Remedy; XVIII, The Execution of Robert Emmet; XIX, The Holy See—Coming Liberty; XX, The Nun of Kenmare at Knock; XXI, Character of Washington; XXII, The Dewy-winged Breezes were Soaring; XXIII, Hermes Trismegistus; XXIV, Useful Knowledge; XXV, The Humorist; XXVI, Talk with Our Readers; XXVII, Alison; XXVIII, Notices of Recent Publications; XXIX, Obituary; XXX, Rev. Patrick Cuddihy.

—The Century Magazine for February confirms the impression already formed that the magazine under its new name is better than Scribner's in its palmy days. The frontispiece of the current number is a portrait of Geo. W. Cable, engraved by Cole. The opening sketch, "The Tile Club Ashore," by W. Mackay Laffan, is plentifully illustrated by a number of The Century's corps of engravers; as also is "Brother Stole's Best," a sketch of the Moravian settlement in Pennsylvania. "Hermes Trismegistus," a poem of two pages, is from the pen of H. W. Longfellow, and written specially for the magazine. Edmund Clarence Stedman contributes a poem, "Lovers in the Tropics." "Through One Administration," by Frances Henrietta Burnett, a serial begun in November, maintains its interest; so also does W. D. Howell's "A Modern Instance." "The Phidian Age of Sculpture," by Lucy M. Burnett, is unusually well done. These are but a few of the entertaining articles of the February number of The Century. Arthur Pennlyn Stanley contributes a brief review.

Scientific Notes.

—A premium of $500 has been offered by Mr. Elia Levey, of Manchester, Eng., for the best system of electric lighting for mines.

—Celluloid is now being used in the manufacture of artificial eyes. The material is lighter than glass, and its non-friable quality renders it far more trustworthy in emergencies.

—Mr. Durganet has presented to the French Academy of Sciences $10,000, the interest to be given to the author of the work best adapted to console humanity. The first prize will be adjudged in 1885 to the author of a work giving the most exhaustive diagnosis of indications of death and means to prevent them. The place which Mr. Ryder, in his preface, announces that he intended it to fill. "It is to be questioned," he says, "whether any poetical collection was ever attended with so many obstacles and such great difficulties. As the Very Rev. clergyman had pointed out, it was by no means easy to locate many poets as Catholics. The various dictionaries and encyclopedias of literature all of them edited by Protestants, have carefully concealed the religious faith of nearly all Catholic writers of eminence, and those who were not exceedingly well-known to fame have been ignored altogether." Mr. Ryder's intention, which was to show that Catholics have written good poetry and much of it, is entirely carried out in this tasteful and carefully edited book.—Freeman's Journal, New York.

—the Notre Dame Scholastic.
The tools are superior for engraving, and also for piercing the hardest metals.

—It is claimed by a writer in Nature that the oil of the "determination" or "cerebrophed," the candle-fish of Alaska, possesses all the medicinal qualities of cod-liver oil. This fish has long been an ichthological curiosity, and has been noticed by almost every traveler who has visited the coasts of British Columbia and southern Alaska. It is a small, silvery fish, averaging about four inches long, and in general appearance much resembling a smelt. It is the fattest of all known fish, and affords a very superior oil when tried out. Dried, the fish serve as torches. When a man is on a long journey, the tail is touched to the fire, and he soon has a light or can burn with a bright light for some time. No description can give an adequate idea of their numbers when ascending the rivers from the sea. The water is literally alive with them and appears to be boiling.

—Among the many unexpected developments of electrical science is an application to the hiving of bees when they swarm, successfully tried by German experimenters. It was thought that by utilizing the electric force the bees might be stupefied for the necessary period of time without being injured, and the result proved the correctness of the idea. The first attempt was made upon the bees that had gathered upon trees, the insects falling upon the ground in a kind of trance, which admitted of their being safely handled. The next stage in the experiment was to capture the bees when they were about to swarm. By introducing two ends of the connecting wires into a fully occupied honeycomb, and turning on the current, the bees were rendered inactive for about thirty minutes, while no bad results appeared to follow their awakening.

—from correspondence between the Abbe Barthelemy, who, in the latter part of the eighteenth century was a curator in the Royal Library at Paris, and Mme. du Deffand, recently published, it would appear that the Abbe had anticipated, or rather the practical application eighty years afterward, of the electric telegraph. Writing from Duc de Choiseul's seat in the country to Mme. du Deffand, then in Paris, he seeks to excuse himself for not having sent her a letter which he had been engaged in for some interesting experiments in physics. The passage is sufficiently remarkable to be worth quoting: "We are told that if you take two clocks, the hands of which are both magnetic in the same degree, and move the hands of one, the hands of the other will follow the same direction; so that when you make one clock strike twelve, the other will do the same. Supposing that these artificial magnets can be perfected so that force will extend from here to there, we believe must have one of these clocks, and we will substitute, substituting the letters of the alphabet for the hours on their faces. At an agreed hour each day we will move the hands, and your secretary will put the letters together and read our message. The process might be simplified by making the needle (hand of the clock) strike a bell, to announce that the oracle is about to speak. There is really no limit to the possible application of this process." Mme. du Deffand, evidently, did not put much faith in her correspondent's scientific genius; for in her reply she satirically observes that it would no doubt "be a very convenient invention for people who are too lazy to write." New York Sun.

College Gossip.

—The "Antigone" of Sophocles is to be produced next March by the students of University College, Toronto, Canada.

—Harvard College has received a donation of $100,000 from the estate of a wealthy gentleman of Boston,—Isaac Rich.

—The Athenaeum states that a chair of Celtic has been instituted in the College de France, and that M. De Jubainville has been appointed to fill it.

—from some correspondence between the Abbe Barthelemy, who, in the latter part of the eighteenth century was a curator in the Royal Library at Paris, and Mme. du Deffand, recently published, it would appear that the Abbe had anticipated, or rather the practical application eighty years afterward, of the electric telegraph. Writing from Duc de Choiseul's seat in the country to Mme. du Deffand, then in Paris, he seeks to excuse himself for not having sent her a letter which he had been engaged in for some interesting experiments in physics. The passage is sufficiently remarkable to be worth quoting: "We are told that if you take two clocks, the hands of which are both magnetic in the same degree, and move the hands of one, the hands of the other will follow the same direction; so that when you make one clock strike twelve, the other will do the same. Supposing that these artificial magnets can be perfected so that force will extend from here to there, we believe must have one of these clocks, and we will substitute, substituting the letters of the alphabet for the hours on their faces. At an agreed hour each day we will move the hands, and your secretary will put the letters together and read our message. The process might be simplified by making the needle (hand of the clock) strike a bell, to announce that the oracle is about to speak. There is really no limit to the possible application of this process." Mme. du Deffand, evidently, did not put much faith in her correspondent's scientific genius; for in her reply she satirically observes that it would no doubt "be a very convenient invention for people who are too lazy to write." New York Sun.

The Rev. Father Clark, S. J., who has succeeded Father Coleridge in the editorship of The Month, was formerly a resident tutor at St. John's, Oxford.

—It has been stated that no student who has used tobacco has graduated valedictorian at Harvard in 50 years, though five-sixths of the number in every class use it. —Ev.

—Some of the students of the Wabash College dressed up a gawky, long-haired comrade as Oscar Wilde, accompanied him on a lecturing visit to Crawfordsville, and dined with an aesthetic villager.

—the Art department of St. Mary's of the Woods, this State, has an invaluable collection of statues, in the person of Sister Maurice, who has done so much towards cultivating and refining the taste of the young ladies of this and adjoining States.

—a young lady, recently graduated from college, desires to know if we would recommend her to continue the study of metaphysics, or to commence the study of higher mathematics. It is very vulgar of us, we know, but we have advised her to take a course of botanography and cookiatics. —Ev.

—B. P. Shillaber writes from Boston to The Hartford Evening Post in regard to the Greek play: "At its first performance, during the applause awarded, there was a cry of 'Author! Author!' near the door, which was supposed to proceed from a member of the legislature who had stayed in."

—the Union Theological Seminary of New York, besides the gift of $300,000 from Ex-Gov. Morgan, has lately received donations amounting to about $150,000, and also has $80,000 promised for the endowment of a professorship. And yet its officers claim that it is in need of $175,000 more.

—an auction sale of the furniture of the house in which the Chinese students lived in Hartford, disappointed those who went expecting to buy real Oriental curiosities and ornaments. Nearly everything in the building was of American design and manufacture. The only foreign articles were a quantity of garments which had been sent over for the boys to wear, but the fashions of Hartford had been preferred.

—This from the Boston Times: "The enterprise of the Harvard Herald must be appreciated by the citizens of Cambridge. Last Thursday morning it had a full account of the final scene in the Giteau trial on the streets of Cambridge at half-past five o'clock, an hour before the Boston papers reached that city. At half-past six it published another edition, containing the usual amount of late college news."

—Georgetown College Library has 37 vols. printed before the year 1600, 268 printed before 1600, also several valuable manuscripts, among which was the thirteenth century; one to the fourteenth century; one in the Irish character, attributed to Geoffrey Keating: one to the fourteenth century; one in the Irish character, and one found on the body of a Tripolitian sailor, consisting of a portion of the Koran, written in Arabic.

—"Some of my readers may remember Virgil's description in the 'Georgics,' of bees leaving their hives in the morning. Mano rustam portus : nasquam mora. A pupil of mine thus Englished the words: 'In the morning they rush forth from the gates: manners are nowhere.' It is easy to believe that a boy educated in the Isle of Man, who rendered Tres graeissimi historici by 'Three very grievous histories.'"

—Divertissements of a Pedagogue in Macmillan's Magazine.

—the 'Rugby,' or game of football has sunk to its proper level. As affording opportunities for a display of brute strength and trickery, it may be called a success; in all other respects it was an unmitigated failure. It has been superseded in England, and it promises to die soon in this country. The block game ought to be prevented at all events, and the most feasible plan for effecting this seems to be the substitution of kicking the ball through instead of snatching it back, in a scrimmage. Another feature in the present game which ought to be removed is the display of brute strength which the game involves. Rough playing and hard tackling occasion angry temper and ungentlymanly actions.—Yale Record.
Notre Dame, February 11, 1882.

The attention of the Alumni of the University of Notre Dame and others, is called to the fact that the NOTRE DAME SCHOLASTIC has now entered upon the FIFTEENTH year of its existence, and presents itself anew as a candidate for the favor of many old friends that have heretofore lent it a helping hand.

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The Editors of the SCHOLASTIC always will be glad to receive information concerning former students and graduates of the University.

—"Justitia," Toledo, calls our attention to—well, something. He is right. We made the same discovery ourselves, but, alas! too late. Honor quibus honor debetur. Fiat "Justitia!"

—The Classes are now in smooth running order for the second session. The great number of new arrivals has made it necessary to divide several of the classes in the Preparatory and Commercial Courses. The boys evidently have their "coats off and sleeves rolled up for business," and the few who dragged during the first session have nearly all "folded their tents like the Arabs and silently stolen away."

—The life-size portrait of Queen Isabella is completed, and looks "admirably well," as Prof. Lyons always says. It is in the main corridor, opposite the painting of Columbus. The Queen is represented offering her jewels to de­

—One of the most important studies of the College Course is, unquestionably, that of Christian Doctrine, whether we consider the loftiness of the speculative truths with which it deals, or the practical results to which it is calculated to lead. It is not surprising, therefore, that it has always received the most careful attention and liberal encouragement from the officers of the University. The "new departure" in the method of teaching, which was inaugurated two years ago, has borne excellent fruit, and the SCHOLASTIC has already spoken of the interest which the Seniors take in the semi-weekly courses of religious instruction.

To show appreciation of this fact, as well as to excite a healthy emulation during the coming session, the premiums promised for this branch are unusually fine. We learn that four gold medals for Christian Doctrine will be awarded at the Annual Commencement. Two of these have already been presented, and when the names of the generous donors, Rt. Rev. Bishop Dwenger, of Fort Wayne, and Very Rev. Father Sorin, are mentioned, it will not be necessary to add that the medals are such as any student may well exert himself to win and be proud to wear. It will also be superfluous to say that anyone aspiring to be the fortunate winner may as well make up his mind from the start that serious efforts on his part will be indispensably necessary to success. Orrick, of '82, we are told, has the lead so far in the race for the Dwenger medal, but his superiority is hotly contested by Otis and Holon, both of '84, and, as the battle is not to the strong alone, nor the race to the swift, it is impossible to foretell what the developments of the next few months will be. The one point certain is, that the best man will win.

The names of the donors of the two other medals are as yet unknown to us, though we have a strong suspicion that Very Rev. Father Corby could enlighten us as to one, if he chose to do so, but as soon as we learn them to a certainty we shall communicate the information to the readers of the SCHOLASTIC.

—One morning, when leaving his tub, Diogenes perceived that he had a neighbor, a young man of a noble family, who, carried away by the fame of the Cynic philosopher, had resolved to obtain a share of his fame by imitating his manner of living. For this purpose, he had prof­

—The attention of the alumni of the University of Notre Dame is called to the fact that Very Rev. Father Corby could enlighten us as to one, if he chose to do so, but as soon as we learn them to a certainty we shall communicate the information to the readers of the SCHOLASTIC.
thorough and practical course of studies are great advantages to a student, they suppose an inclination to acquire knowledge, and can never supply for earnestness or lack of purpose. Hosts of what are denominated "self-made" men become distinguished in science, literature and art simply by persevering effort; with them, great industry supplies the want of the advantages enjoyed in schools.

There are so many indifferent graduates of colleges nowadays, young men who have profited so little by the opportunities which they possessed, that with many people the distinction of an academic degree is without recommendation for ability or worth, whereas it ought to be the highest. To many students the remembrance of their graduation must be one of bitter regret at the thought of the golden opportunities lost and the scant benefit acquired. Now is the time to guard against such regret. A student's first duty is to make the best possible use of his time and surroundings.

—Among the art treasures at Notre Dame is an original painting by Van Dyke, the great master of the Flemish school. It was brought to this country from England many years ago, and presented to Very Rev. Father Sorin, first President of the University. Although it has always been regarded as something precious, and supposed to be the work of one of the masters, it was not until last year, when it was placed in the hands of Prof. Gregori for restoration, that the authorship was determined. The Professor is one of the highest authorities in such matters, and his enthusiastic delight on discovering that the work was by Anthony Van Dyke may be imagined. The task of renovating the canvas was an arduous one, and required weeks of patient labor. It is needless to say that it was done well and con amore. Those who saw the painting before the Professor began work on it, would hardly recognize it now. The subject is the Crucifixion, and the size of the canvas is 32x38 inches. The painting has been elegantly framed, and encased in glass. It may now be seen in the Green Room of the College.

We copy from the Chicago Tribune of last Monday the following letter to Very Rev. Father Sorin, congratulating him on the possession of such a treasure, and thanking him for his patronage of the fine arts. The writer, at the time the letter was written, had his studio in Chicago.

Rev. Padre:—Fui gentile e di Lei ben degno il pensiero, che le nasceva, in contemplare un magnifico quadro che io le dissi era opera di Antonio Wandyke. Ho l'onore di farle i miei complimenti; avendo veduto la carta che V. R. ha preso nelle più illustri gallerie d'Europa; ed essendo V. R. suo amato con amore. Thos subject is the Crucifixion, and the size of the canvas is 32x38 inches. The painting has been elegantly framed, and encased in glass. It may now be seen in the Green Room of the College.

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—Mr. Levi Lynn, '59, is editor of The Wabash Courier, a large, handsome and well-edited weekly paper published at Wabash, Indiana, in connection with which there is also a college and finely equipped printing establishment. Mr. Lynn is, we are told, a representative man in the Art Preservative in his section and refers with a feeling of pleasure to his college days at Notre Dame.

—Albert Rohrbach, '80, is with Messrs. Strouse, Loeb & Co., printers, Philadelphia. He is well and doing well. Renewing his subscription to the Scholastic, he writes: "I deem it my duty, and the duty of every old student of Notre Dame, to support the college paper. It reminds me of good old times." Mr. Rohrbach expects to be here at the next Commencement. We shall be glad to see him.

—A pleasant letter from Thomas H. Hafe, a well-remembered student of '79, addressed to Very Rev. Father Corby, C. S. C., announces a marriage which took place at Bunker Hill, Ill., on the 9th inst. The lady's name is Miss Joyce D. McCappin. "Bunker" rejoices, and sends kind regards to his friends at Notre Dame, of whom there seem to be a large number. Congratulations and good wishes are expressed by all of them.

—Among the visitors to the College during the week were: Mrs. D. B. West of Chicago, whose son is now attending class at the College; Mrs. Garity of the same city, who also entered her sons; Rev. Alfred N. Gilbert, Bushville, Ind.; Rev. James H. Slover of South Bend; Rev. Father Scanlon of the City; J. M. Mackey, Neapolis, Ohio; L. G. Horn, of '77, and D. J. Moran of Valparaiso, Ind.; Edward Byerly of South Bend; Judge and Mrs. Turner of South Bend; G. C. Connor and John C. Griffis, of Chippewa, Ohio; Rev. Father Corby, Soulh Bend, where he will establish a German parish. The people are glad to have him among them.

—The pouch owned by Bloody Knife, a Ree Chief, and scout to Gen. Custer in the Black Hill expedition, and several photographs of Chippewa chiefs and braves, have been added to the collection of Indian curiosities.

—Rev. Father O'Connell is becoming a great favorite with the Minims. They look upon him as the great patron of athletic sports, and the few who can succeed in gaining access to his rooms to swing the Indian clubs are the envy of the rest.

—There is a marked improvement on the part of the acolytes, torch-bearers, etc., in carrying out the sacred ceremonies, thanks to the careful training of Mr. Sullivan. We hope the servers will reach such a degree of perfection as to preserve silence in the sanctuary.

—We are authorized to correct the statement, lately published in the South Bend papers, that Rev. Father Granger addressed a meeting of the Land League recently held in that city. It was Rev. P. F. Cooney, who made a few uncomplimentary remarks about the British lion.

—The entries since September already number more than four hundred. This list includes only those who are studying in the college proper. It is safe to say that during the past five months as many as five hundred young men have received instruction at Notre Dame.

—On the 9th inst., Very Rev. Father General celebrated the sixty-eighth anniversary of his birthday. He appears to be as vigorous and active as he was ten years ago. It is the heartfelt wish of his many friends that he may live to celebrate many other happy returns of the 6th of February.

—Mr. J. P. Smith is busily at work on a full-length, life-size portrait of Pius IX, of glorious memory. The Pontiff is represented clothed in full pontificals, giving his benediction in St. Peter's Basilica. The features are an exact reproduction of the portrait painted from sittings given to Prof. Gregori by the Pope.

—The north end of the Seniors' study-hall resembles a conservatory, with its rich bloom of geraniums, roses and calla lilies. The large statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in the same room, is fairly embowered in a dense foliage of the rarest plants and shrubs. The Seniors display good taste.

—A small and finely equipped printing establishment.

—Near a large, handsome and well-edited weekly paper published in the South Bend papers, that Rev. Father Granger addressed a meeting of the Land League recently held in that city. It was Rev. P. F. Cooney, who made a few uncomplimentary remarks about the British lion.

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are assured that such is the case. The work reflects credit on the author if it is well done. The enthusiasm with which Minims and small Juniors managed to put themselves in the way of the men and teams working on the excavations for the eastern wing simply baffle description. Our friend, Colgar and others of the same age, must have imagined themselves suddenly metamorphosed into first-class engineers, or superintendents of public works.

We direct attention to the autograph letter of the venerable Isaac Pitman, to be found in another column. It is probably the first received by any college paper on the subject. Although we believe the School of Speech can claim the distinction of being the first among its contemporaries to call attention to the study of phonography, and to advocate a reform of our cumbersome orthography.

The marriage of a well-known and popular student of the ante-bellum days, Mr. Thomas Hale, of Banker Hill, Ill., is noticed in another column. Mr. Hale is the young gentleman who was wont to declaim with so much spirit and energy an ode in which the refrain "And 'twas hip, he said, hip, hip, hurrah!" frequently occurred. His many friends at Notre Dame seem like repeating the refrain in his honor or for his benefit.

Messrs. Clarke, O'Neill, McCarthy and Orrick, of the Theosoph Society, attended a meeting of patriotic Irishmen in South Bend last Saturday evening, and favored the assembly with some speeches and recitations which are factions of the original essay papers. Rev. Fr. Cooney was also in attendance and spoke for about an hour on the rights and wrongs of Erin. Ex-Mayor Tong of the College Faculty presided.

Our weather-prophet says that the weather is "astonishing" in that if it continues much longer the end of the world may be looked for. He accurately foretold the weather for last Sunday, and it is due to him to state that his predictions are generally correct, more or less. He has no scientific theories to explain why he is right or wrong, but he is able to puzzle the brains of these not given to prognostications.

An antique umbrella of faded hue and ribs of failing strength, the property of the amiable Secretary of the Students' Office, who valued it very highly as a family heirloom, bequeathed to him by a venerated grandlre, has been missing of late. Its disappearance is almost contemporaneous with the late visit of the former Rev. Prefect of Discipline. We wish to make no insinuations, but is this another case of "post hoc, ergo propter hoc"? Explanation is expected.

The Scholastic says the life-size portrait of Columbus in the vestibule of the University is "the observed of all observers, and the admired of all critics. It is certainly one of the finest of the many works of art with which the genius of Prof. Gregori has enriched the University." Notre Dame is very fortunate in securing the services of this Roman artist, who has already placed in the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart creations of his brush which have no equal in this country.—South Bend Tribune.

The 14th regular meeting of the Columbia Literary and Dramatic Club was held in Columbia Hall, Thursday, February 2, 1883. At this meeting, there was a spirited debate on the subject, "Should the Ecclesiastical College be Abolished?" Messrs. N. Commerford, T. Fenlon, and J. T. Commerford were the affirmative, while Messrs. J. Barr, J. Kindle, and E. Fenlon sustained the negative. Messrs. J. and M. Falvey and W. Johnson, who acted as managers, furnished them with everything necessary to hold their debate, and many people can walk under it; and it is so old that they have to prop it up with poles and chains, to hold it together, otherwise it would fall down. The next was the pin-punisher. It was an awful thing to get punished with one of these things: you would run into your hand. If you were to see one alive, and it was mad, it would go to the nearest river or pond, and get its trunk full of water and throw it at you in full force, and nearly knock you down, and if he took you on his horns or tusks he would kill you in an instant. The next, one was the skeleton of a giant who was in France. When man was digging in his garden, he struck some stones, and he wondered what they were, and he took an axe and caved the stonework in, and he found the skeleton of a giant about twenty-three (23) feet long, and around him was four (4) feet, and his eyes [sockets?] were awful big. His name was on a cast, but he didn't exactly remember it; but his castle still stands on the Rhine river in France; [Master Gibson does not believe in "Our German Rhine." and they think if they dig a little further they will strike some other one. It is supposed to be one of their burial places. This one is noted for being so big. They have it now, in the door of the Exposition, with its legs stretched out, and many people can walk under it; and it is so old that they have to prop it up with poles and chains, to hold it together, otherwise it would come apart and fall down. The next was a little dwarf, who was married. She was so little—a foot high—and she and her husband? would talk so low that you could hardly hear her; and they had fine dresses and clothes. The managers furished them with everything nice; and they could sing. They had a very sweet voice, and they were walking together, when one of the gentlemen lifted her up, and it scared her a little, though not enough to hurt her. And she was sewing her husband's pants, and mending his clothes, and it looked so nice to see such little things. You could take them on your hand, and put them into your pocket, though some of them would be about the size of a thimble. In this case you are sure to get killed. The way it is made is this: it is made of laths fixed together, so that it will come tight together, with pins stuck in them; and if a person gets in, they wind it up something; and it closes, and the pins stick in him till he dies from the want of...
Roll of Honor.

[The names of those students who appear in the following list are those whose conduct during the past week has given entire satisfaction to the Faculty. They are placed in alphabetical order.]

SENIOR DEPARTMENT.


JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

the excellence of their vocal and instrumental performances and gave them much praise for the admirable manner in which they had treated the subjects of their essays. All present seemed highly pleased.

(Selections from "Rosa Mystica" and "St. Mary's Chimes," monthly MS. papers edited by the young ladies of the Senior Department.)

The Effect of Character on Society.

When we see that mass of humanity which the world styles "Society," swayed by some unseen power, we naturally inquire what is that power? and the answer is, Individual Character. As the wind plays upon the water, now gently rippling its placid surface, now sweeping it along in immense billows, so character playing upon society either gently elevates or depresses its tone, or sways it hither or thither with violent force. If character is the power by which society is ruled, then each one should earnestly try to be a noble character, since each one desires to be an active principle in human society.

But character is neither a special quality of the heart nor an acquisition of the intellect that may be obtained by labor or cultivation. No: for character is not only the aggregate of all the personal virtues, but likewise of the defects. It is an endowment of nature capable of being moulded into different forms, but the material cannot be changed. Some characters possess the plasticity and pliability of clay, and, like it, may readily be moulded into beautiful images or misshapen monstrosities. Others, possessing the hardness and inflexibility of marble, cannot be bent or moulded, but by careful chiselling may be transformed into grand and exquisite shapes.

But who are the character moulders and sculptors? Undoubtedly woman gives them the first crude shapings and often beautiful finishing touches, while the chiselling of those grander traits devolves upon man. But, in order to form character, the requisite models and tools must be used. Our holy Church offers us in her canonized sons and daughters models of every rank and grade in life, from the heroic soldier Sebastian to the timid Roman maiden Agnes, from the learned Pontiff Gregory VII to the simple French shepherdess Genevieve, from the noted German Emperor Henry II to the humble mendicant Benedict Labre. The tools with which we work are firmness and perseverance. If parents wish to mould their children's characters in beautiful castes they must possess these essential qualities, for in vain will they teach their children the nobility of self-sacrifice, truth or sincerity if they act not in accordance with their precepts. Woman, by her noble acts of tender devotion, by her sympathy for the erring and unfortunate, by her courage and firmness in resisting evil, exercises a subtle influence even on the sinner and the sly, and not only moulds the character of her own immediate circles, but society at large.

Though character embraces all the individual qualities, yet some leave upon it a deeper impress than others, as integrity, sincerity and firmness, and when these are united in an individual, even though marred by minor defects, he will receive the beautiful appellation of a "noble Character," while the unstable and insincere receive the humiliating title of a "weak character." The acts of an individual are frequently viewed from the stand-point of his character, as well as from their own intrinsic value. Even the laws of a country, though they may be equitable and good, will not receive due appreciation if the character of their promulgator be below the standard. When God designs one of earth's feeble instruments to perform a noble mission He endows it with corresponding strength of character, as the primitive Christians so often testified by their fortitude amidst the most cruel tortures. Had Moses, the great legislator of the Israelites, been weak and vacillating, could he have restrained the waywardness of those fickle people? And did not the pagan Lycurgus obtain his power over the Spartans as well by his firmness of character as by his prudent legislation? And so with England's great lawgiver, King Edward, whose code even now forms the germ of English and American laws. Where can we find a more remarkable example of strength of character than in our great discoverer, Christopher Columbus, whose firmness of purpose and calmness of mind overcame all obstacles and restrained so often the mutiny of his companions?

Every country has her representatives of noble character. Ireland points to her great emancipator, Daniel O'Connell; England to her Alfred, her Edward, and her Thomas More; Spain, her Ximenes and Isabella; France, her Charlemagne and her sainted Louis IX; Germany, her Rudolph of Hapsburg; Switzerland her dauntless William Tell; Poland her gallant Sobieski; America, her prudent, heroic and patriotic Washington; while the whole world points to the noble character of our late venerable Pontiff whose Non possumus still rings throughout the world.

Society is based upon man's mutual intercourse, and as each character, however humble or limited the sphere of its action, tends to modify other characters, so nothing can be more important than the development of this great element. No matter how good or beautiful a person's theories be, or how eloquently defended, if the advocate be wanting in character they will be without effect; hence when potenates wish to reform their subjects they must show a noble example in their own characters, and not beat the air with idle words and flaunting mandates.

How beautiful is the strength of character exemplified in the heroic St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, who feared not the wrath of an earthly monarch, but fearlessly performed the obligations of duty!

The character moulders of society must be living members—workers rather than talkers, for nothing carries conviction so readily as action, "the noblest and highest eloquence." Character has been called the diamond which cuts all other gems; but character is more than this, for it embraces all the gems which adorn society. In all the world there is but one universal and uniform society, whose immutable principles strongly contrast with those civil, social and religious societies which are continually changing. This society is the Church, the most powerful of all character makers, which stands as a lasting monument of its Divine Author, bearing the impress of the divine character.

Thoughts on the Feast of the Purification.

Why, sinless Mother, bow thy peerless head To rite designed, for those 'neath primal ban By Mother Eve incurred? Hast thou not heard The grand Archangel hail thee full of grace? Hast thou not read Isaiah's words sublime— "A Virgin shall conceive and bear a son"?
The Examination average of Classes and the young ladies mentioned are those whose average is 90 and over.


1ST CLASS, average 96—Misses M. Chaves, C. Richmond, M. Otero, A. Sawyer.

GERMAN CLASSES.

1ST CLASS, average 100—Misses C. Claffey, E. Chrischells, A. Dillon, C. Ginz, M. Behler, M. Thomann.


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