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NELSON DINGLEY.

Born in Durham, Me., February 15, 1832, Died in Washington, D. C., January 13, 1899.
NOT since the tragic death of President Lincoln has the close of an American statesman’s life been the occasion of tributes at once so general and so unreserved as those we have just seen paid to the life, character, and services of Governor Dingley. Few of our political leaders at their departure from earthly scenes have not seemed to involve the injunction “nil de mortuis nisi bonum.” But the most careful scrutiny of the youth and manhood, the private life and the public career, of our “lost leader,” reveals nothing that calls for the charity of silence. On the contrary, the more his character and conduct are studied, the more they impress us by their harmony and consistency. And they have for the alumni and students of Bates a lesson that has not yet been fully stated.

The General Catalogue of our institution gives the names of the thirty-two men who seem to have been the charter members of its corporation,—twelve constituting the President and “Board of Fellows,” and twenty, the “Overseers.” Of the entire thirty-two, but seven or eight, if I mistake not, and of the Board of Fellows, but three or four still live. In the list of the twelve members forming the President and Board of Fellows in 1863, Mr. Dingley’s name stands last. Among those original members of the “upper board,” who have died, were Ebenezer Knowlton, Benjamin E. Bates, and James G. Blaine. The three still
surviving, and still members of the corporation, are Oren B. Cheney, Alonzo Garcelon, and Abial M. Jones. Of the twelve men, Mr. Dingley seems to have been one of the youngest. Most of them were his seniors by many years. On what grounds was he selected to share the responsibility of founding and building up a new college in conservative New England? Doubtless, President Cheney, in choosing his associates in the new enterprise, was attracted to Mr. Dingley in part by prudential considerations. The young journalist had already, at the age of 31, become one of the first citizens of Lewiston. Under his control and editorship the Lewiston Journal had begun to give promise of leadership among the newspapers of Maine, and the young editor, as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, had proved himself also a legislator and a parliamentarian.

But while these considerations made Mr. Dingley actually and prospectively a desirable guardian of an institution yet in its helpless infirmity,—without graduates or even students, with many enemies, and few friends, his membership in its first Board of Fellows, beginning in 1863 and terminating only with his death, has a deeper and more significant explanation. The new college could do nothing for him, while it must make large demands on his time and thought. But it represented in its charter and purposes principles dear to him as his own life. It was the first New England college to offer the same privileges to women as to men; and this would have sufficed to ensure it the sympathy of Mr. Dingley. Amid disparagement, denunciation, and ridicule, such as men of the present generation can not even conceive, it quietly began its work of educating men and women, and Mr. Dingley, conscious as he, doubtless, was of his own possibilities, and filled with an ingenuous young man’s aspirations for distinction, never flinched in his support of its novel and unpopular position. And from that day to this his voice and his pen have never failed the cause that he championed in his youth. The new college instituted still another departure from accepted college customs and practices. It deliberately required every young man entering Bates to pledge himself during his connection with the college to total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. This, too, strange to say, invited the scorn of many who regarded themselves as exponents of college life and customs. But to Mr. Dingley this pledge was commended at once by his
own observation and experience of college life and by his deepest convictions as a man and a citizen. And these convictions he maintained and exemplified to the close of his life.

Still another characteristic of the new college which won the sympathy and support of Mr. Dingley was its absolute freedom from the spirit of caste. Colored men early learned of this spirit and found themselves at home at Bates long before race prejudices had visibly relaxed in other New England colleges. The open literary societies of the institution, freely accessible to every student of character and purpose and offering equal opportunities for improvement to all on the single condition of willingness to enter the arena of mental conflict, had his warm approval. The absence of frivolous and expensive social customs, the opportunities offered to working students to make their own way, and the resulting attendance of numbers of self-reliant young men and young women, always seemed to him characteristics to be prized and maintained. They were in perfect harmony with his own conceptions of the ideal college and the ideal community. Most of all he sympathized with the active Christian, though unsectarian, spirit that has always been a controlling factor in the life of Bates.

Naturally he was not an inactive official. Unless detained by public duties, or other considerations equally grave, he was uniformly in attendance at the meetings of the Trustees. He took an active part in their deliberations and was often assigned to the most important and the most difficult duties. It was from his hands that the second President of the College received the symbols of his authority on the retirement of the first. Those present at the inaugural exercises will not forget the earnest words in recognition of the great services of the founder of the institution. Perhaps the last public address of Governor Dingley, outside the halls of Congress, was delivered in our chapel, but a few weeks ago, before the entire body of Faculty and students in response to a request from the Bates Debating League. In that address, more freely than in any other of which I can learn, he unfolded his ideals of worthy student life and illustrated them from his own observation and experience. Would that those utterances might have been preserved. They would serve as an impressive and lasting exposition of his own personality and convictions. He was unconsciously uttering on
the verge of his closing career the lesson of his life. He was profoundly impressed by the evidences of growth that greeted him in the well-filled chapel. In his mind he reviewed rapidly the thirty-five years in which he had been a Trustee, and which had witnessed such an advance from the feeble beginnings. Naturally reserved and self-reticent, on that occasion he opened his heart and unlocked the treasures of his experience as if speaking to his own household. Had we known that he would never speak to us again, he could scarcely have been more earnest or we have listened more attentively.

I can pay no better tribute to his memory and to his services to our college than by endeavoring to bring out clearly, supplemented by some obvious interpretations of his methods of thought and work, the impressions concerning his individuality made by that last address.

The very first thing to be noticed in Mr. Dingley was his remarkable good sense. There was not an atom of folly in his composition. His powers of mind always held themselves in perfect balance. He never gushed. He never betrayed a particle of vanity. Plain in speech and manners, eminently a man of the people, he never catered to vulgar whims or popular prejudices. He presented no trace of eccentricity. Quite as remarkable as his good sense was his judgment. Many a man has the former without conspicuously manifesting the latter. Good sense may be merely a matter of intuition. Good judgment implies comparison, analysis, discrimination. The basis for it must exist in a man's original constitution, but like other mental faculties it may be developed and improved by practice. The question may be asked, Should Mr. Dingley be ranked with men of genius? If by genius we mean brilliant imagination, flashing wit, or any of those qualities that dazzle us by display, evidently Mr. Dingley was not a genius. But if by genius we mean extraordinary depth and quickness of insight—the ability quickly to find the meaning of an event, the application of a principle, the relation of facts to one another and to the laws that govern them, the shortest and best paths to desired ends—then it is doubtful whether any man now in public life has any better title to the name than had Mr. Dingley. Psychology teaches us that one distinction between the man of genius and
the man of ordinary powers is the manner in which they give attention. To the genius, the subject under investigation opens up of itself, disclosing new and interesting aspects. To the ordinary man these are revealed, if at all, only after repeated efforts of the will to hold the mind to the subject. From his youth onward the great subjects in which Mr. Ding-ley was interested seemed to hold themselves constantly before his mind. No doubt habit had confirmed inclination; but the steady fascination which the great problems of modern statesmanship possessed for him seems to be referable only to genius. Doubtless, some would say that his genius was solely that of hard work. Hard work may gather valuable facts, but hard work alone can not illuminate them with meaning. Mr. Ding-ley was a hard worker all his life. But he was no mere statistician. He not only had the facts at his command, but he saw clearly what they signified and employed them in constructive statesmanship.

Still his hard work is one of the best proofs of his noble personality. He had immense will power for tedious and uninteresting duty, as well as spontaneous energy for congenial and attractive pursuits. Intensely fond, while yet in college, of studies in finance and government, he at the same time resolutely applied himself to the less engaging classics and mathematics. He believed in "all round" culture, in thorough and rugged self-discipline. Throughout his life he promptly faced the disagreeable whenever it lay in the path of duty.

For, after all, the controlling factor in his character was his practical devotion to right. The quest of his life was truth. To him self-interest could never conceal or disguise a fallacy, whether in politics or in conduct. Everyone knew his absolute honesty. That was why his simple words always carried conviction. He had unweariedly explored the subject through all its mazes, and when he spoke it was with an authority that sent the arrow straight to the mark.

It is said of Pope that his tutors early discovered and impressed upon their pupil his genius for numbers, and that Pope, implicitly heeding his instructors, bent all his energies to the mastery of the art of poetry. Our dead congressman seemed from his youth to have possessed instinct for the study of govern-
ment and its problems; and, while he never neglected any interest important to our common humanity, he concentrated the chief energies of his heart and mind upon questions of practical politics and legislation. He brought to the consideration of these the habits and the attainments of the thorough student, the genius of rare natural insight, the keenness of a well-trained judgment, the unperverted instinct for truth, the resolute industry of the faithful worker, the disinterested devotion of the patriot and the practical philanthropy of the Christian. What wonder that his associates in Congress said of him, "His place can not be filled; upon no other man has the country leaned more reliably; to no other man can it look as confidently."

Deep as is the impression that the character and career of Mr. Dingley have made upon our entire country, to no class are they, perhaps, so significant as to students; and to no students do they appeal so directly as to those of Bates. He was himself a lifelong student and that, too, from the love of study. He tolerated no indulgence that could blunt his sensibilities, cloud his mind, or make less steady his grasp of truth. Fond of society, he refused to enjoy it at the expense of higher interests. His example is a protest against those late hours, convivial habits, luxurious pleasures, and frivolous amusements that are destroying the wholesome enjoyments of home life, taking the substance out of our manhood and womanhood, and closing the paths of scholarship and self-culture to those to whom they would otherwise be most accessible. The true scholar is not, and can not be, a hermit or an ascetic. But he is, and must be, or fail of his calling, temperate, pure, systematic, and self-denying. Here as in the still higher sphere of the Christian, "he that would save his life must lose it," and alike in the sphere of the scholar and the Christian, and, therefore, more effectively in each, Mr. Dingley illustrated the true uses of life.

We shall never welcome him to our halls again. But we hope and believe that in the spirit and aims of the institution that he helped to found and in the character and work of its Faculty and students he will still live, an ever-growing influence.

—Geo. C. Chase, D.D., LL.D.
“How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollection presents them to view.”

A SIMPLE familiar strain, yet the words are full of meaning, and the memories they awaken are dimmed by unshed tears. To one they may recall some half-forgotten scene of earlier years, to another some dreamy angel face, yet somehow, some way, in their simplicity, they speak to all. And they prompted me, after many years had passed, to make a visit to the old farm-house, where I had spent my childhood.

It was Christmas day, and the bells were ringing out their joyous tidings of “peace on earth, good-will to men,” as we left the broad streets of the city behind us, and emerged into the narrow country roads.

What a welcome change! Behind us brick walls, tall chimneys, and crowds of noisy people; before us, broad fields, tall trees and the silence of the infinite. Mother nature had donned that day her simplest garment, and she stood before us in a pure white glistening robe, with a sunny, smiling welcome.

With jingling bells our cutter flew along. Now for mile after mile there were only broad unbroken fields of glistening purity, relieved now and then by tall trees, clad alike in the glittering jewelled raiment of the ice king. Now we passed a little country hamlet of humble dwellings with its one church spire pointing heavenward and bathed in sunshine and in silence. Then again we passed a sheet of ice where steel flashed and laughter echoed merrily, as the skaters flew by us. But wherever we went there was always that dazzling purity, so fit a robe in which to welcome back the Saviour’s birthday.

A short icy level, then a long steep hill, and we came in sight of the farm-house. To my companion, the scene was not unlike dozens of others that we had passed that day, but to me it was a sacred spot, where the relics of my happiest days lay buried.

The low, pointed-roofed farm-house, half buried in the deep white drifts, with no color relief save the dull brick chimneys, from which the smoke curled in clear rings on the crisp cold air. The huge barn doors were open, and gave us a glimpse of huge hay-mows, strangely suggestive of clover and the birds, while the broad level fields were unbroken in their covering, as they sloped off to the woods.
Back of the house lay the old orchard, but the trees were dwarfed by the depths of snow about them, and the branches were heavy with their icy shroud. Leaves there were none, and one could hardly believe that the huge brown limbs were ever green with rustling leaves, or laden with the dainty, perfumed blossoms of the spring.

The only sound of life on this winter morning was the gentle tapping of the woodpecker seeking for food beneath the icy covering, and we saw the little black and white fellow creep higher and higher while his pecking made welcome music.

And thus all about the old place there was no change; even the old well-sweep gave me greeting as it stood, erect, and hearty as ever, while the well-beaten path that led straight to it told us that its usefulness, too, remained. And as we waited, viewing the whole scene that lay before us, a flood of sunlight covered all the world, lighting the broad white fields into a dazzling white expanse, and shedding about the dear old place a perfect halo of glory.

A few months, and the whole scene would be changed, flowers would bud, and birds sing, the broad fertile lands, with waving fields of wheat and rye, would give forth a goodly harvest, when autumn turned the trees to russet and to gold.

The seasons come, the seasons go, but never will the old home seem to me as it did on that sunny winter day when the world was glad with the tidings of Christmas peace and joy, and the very stillness spoke to us of God.

“That God which ever lives and loves,
One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off divine event
To which the whole creation moves.”

—Blanche Burdin Sears, 1900.

EDGAR ALLAN POE.

For over twenty years there had been an unmarked grave in the Westminster burying ground at Baltimore, when in the year 1875 a stone was raised to the memory of the romancer, poet, and critic, Edgar Allan Poe. Some years later, almost forty after his death, a memorial tablet was placed in the New York Museum of Art with this inscription: “Poe was great in his genius; unhappy in his life; wretched in his death; but in his fame he is immortal.” No expression could better portray the
brief, brilliant, but unhappy life and melancholy death of this, one of America's greatest and most unique of authors.

His was a singular genius, which found a powerful expression in such themes as death, insanity, pestilence, conscience, and ratiocination,—a genius which would follow no leadings but those of his own imperial intellect.

Although Poe did not succeed in winning a very high place as a critic, yet all his honest criticisms have been proved by time to be strikingly correct. He was one of the first to recognize the genius of Tennyson and of Mrs. Browning, and he gave Hawthorne and Longfellow their rightful places among American men of letters.

As a poet, Poe displayed a high rhythmical art. His whole collection numbers only about forty poems, all of which have a sombre hue. "Mere cries of despair" they have been called. Yet there is a haunting beauty in their melody which makes them cling in the memory. And their influence has a more potent force in England and France than the poems of any other American. His "Raven" is one of the most popular lyrics in all literature, while "The Bells" is a most remarkable illustration of onomatopoeia. When did sleigh-bells ring more merrily?

"How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle
In the icy air at night,
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells."

But it is perhaps in the domain of the short prose romance that Edgar Poe's present fame rests. There is nothing in the English literature with which his stories can be compared, and nothing in the American literature except the stories of Hawthorne. Of all American writers none have been narrower in range than these two, and of all they are the most intense. Both dealt with the weird and melancholy, yet each had a distinctive treatment of his own. While the development of human character occupied Hawthorne's imagination, Poe's was busy with the supernatural and the unearthly. Irving, Hawthorne, and Poe
attained success with the striking feature of our literature—the short story. Of this kind of writing nothing better has been produced than Irving’s “Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” Hawthorne’s “Tales” and Poe’s “Gold Bug.” Another remarkable achievement of Poe, is “The Fall of the House of Usher,” of which it is said, that it occupies the same gloomy eminence in prose fiction that Browning’s “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came,” occupies in romantic poetry. The remarkable genius of Poe is further shown in “The Murders of Rue Morgue,” with which he may be said to have originated the modern detective story. It was this man’s glory and misfortune that he was unique, his glory in that he gave productions that will stand, his misfortune in that he failed in understanding life, thereby doing himself the greatest injustice and failing for the most part in winning the recognition and friendship of his contemporaries.

Unfortunate all his life, he was even more unfortunate after death. For he first fell into the hands of a biographer who dwelt with weariness and merciless exaggeration upon his faults and weaknesses. And for ten years this untruthful record of his life was the only written account which the world had of him.

Poe is the one American genius whom Europe has esteemed more than has his own nation. Tennyson considered him our greatest genius and all France is better acquainted with him than with any other of our writers. Why is America lacking in appreciation of him?

Burns, Goethe, Byron and other men whom the world honors have erred far worse than Poe ever did, inasmuch as they injured others. But Poe, who injured only himself, has received no mercy. The difference is here—their biographers did not dwell upon all that was bad in them—upon facts which only a few knew and only a few need ever know, and further, only the truth in regard to them has ever been spoken. If it is true what Browning teaches—a teaching which we of this closing century like to accept—that God judges the aspirations and longings and not the successes and failures of life, Edgar Poe fares far better with his God than with his countrymen. He sees, I believe, that the sensitive, lonely child, unfortunate in birth and temperament, adopted into wealth and over-indulgence, and lacking in loving home influences and a high moral training, was father of the man who found life a dream, and dream a reality.

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves that we are underlings."

It is true that in the earliest times there existed an actual belief in the influence of the stars upon the destinies of individuals and nations. The wisest men of the time bent all their energies to the study of the unchangeable decrees of the stars. But when the Copernican system, showing the earth itself to be one of the heavenly bodies, arose, then did the stars begin to lose their sense of mystery and to receive less respect and awe.

Among the old Chaldeans so important was the belief in astrology that it overshadowed and clouded the study of all other sciences. We find the Jews after their captivity in Babylon much devoted to the study of the heavens. The prophet Isaiah, when he predicted the fall and destruction of Babylon, said “Let now the astrologers, the worthy prognosticators, stand up and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.” The Greeks also before attempting any great undertaking, consulted the stars. In the Sicilian Expedition, the ruin of the Athenians was due to the superstition of the General Nicias. He, because of an eclipse of the moon, persisted in following the advice of his soothsayer and delayed for days a retreat. This would have been the salvation of his army.

That well-known German writer, Schiller, in one of his tragedies has illustrated the effect of the stars on individual lives. Wallenstein refused to take any action until the omens were favorable, although his friends urged him to hasten, on the ground that now and now alone, with a mighty effort, he might secure success. Wallenstein remained immovable, so that his brother-in-law in impatience exclaimed:

“You'll wait upon the stars and on their hours
Till the earthly hour escapes you. O believe me!
In your bosom are your destiny’s stars.”

His life was ruined because of his tenacious belief in the prophecy of the stars. When a little while before his death, his friend and confidant reproached him for his superstitions and told him that now he could see how his stars had lied, his only reply was, “The stars lie not. This has happened in spite of stars and fate.”

Thus we see how the belief in Astrology naturally led to the belief in Fatalism. If one was born under a lucky star, he was
destined to be fortunate, but if under an unlucky star, no amount of effort could change his fate. In a word, wealth, position or personal activity could avail nothing with an unpropitious heaven. A signal illustration of this may be found in the career of Napoleon. He, like Wallenstein, believed in his star. He was the man of destiny. “People talk of my crimes,” said he, “but men of my mark do not commit crimes. What I did was necessity. I was the child of destiny.” Who doubts but for this very belief of his, when fortune turned against him only a few years of imprisonment at St. Helena sufficed to kill him. Wellington, on the other hand, that man who never lost a battle, who cared little for luck, but who was ever prompt to turn to good account the ill fortunes of his adversary, would have subdued Helena; never would he have been subdued by it.

While we do not believe in the direct influence of the stars as did the ancients, yet many people of this nineteenth century do believe that the destiny of their lives is sealed by influences outside their personal exertions. To an extent we know this to be true, for we recognize the fact, that man is related to the universe, that he is affected by all the exterior forces that come to bear upon his life. As the physical body is dependent upon food, the intellect upon truth, and the heart upon the lives of others for the exercise of its affections, so man in this journey of life, to a certain degree is dependent for success upon help which comes from others. Character is moulded by a thousand subtle influences, yet it is nevertheless true that man must always be his own best helper. I have admitted that our destiny is largely influenced by our social surroundings. We all doubtless could call to mind children who from their birth were surrounded by cultivating and ennobling influences; and on the other hand children who were born in poverty and ignorance, yet we cannot with certainty predict which of these will be the greater help to their fellow-beings. Again we are affected by altitudes. It is a generally recognized fact that races living near the mountains have greater love of liberty than those dwelling in the valleys, so a temperate climate tends to make men more active than a tropical climate. The same tree that is soft and spongy in a swamp grows hard and noble on the hillside.

It cannot be denied, therefore, that circumstances do influence a man's life, yet they do not seal his destiny any more than did the stars of the Chaldeans. Although luck or fortune, which are
only words for unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances, does sometimes shape our destiny, too frequently it is merely the excuse of the indolent and the idle. Two men may set out with the same end in view, and because one succeeds and the other fails we call the successful one fortunate. It was not fortune alone, the lucky star of circumstance, but his own effort.

"Where there is a will there is a way." A powerful will accomplishes many things seemingly impossible. Virgil says of his boatmen, "they are able because they seem able." A good illustration is found in the story of the English carpenter who was observed planing a magistrate's bench, which he was repairing, with unusual carefulness, who, when asked the reason, replied, "Because I wish to make it easy against the time I come to sit on it myself." Strange as it may seem, that man did live to sit on that very bench as magistrate.

As we climb the mountain of life, circumstances should not be regarded as hindrances in our path, but rather stepping-stones by which we may reach the topmost peaks. In the life of the most unlucky person, there are times when, by prompt action, he could win his heart's desire. Raleigh at the right moment threw his velvet coat on the ground, and thus won the favor of a haughty queen. God gives the opportunities, but we and we alone accept or reject them. Opportunity is shy. It is not enough to seize it when it comes, we must strike the iron not only when it is hot but strike it until it is made hot.

Physical defects often have compensating advantages. It is surprising how many of our great men are in reality little men. Aristotle, although a pigmy in person, became a giant in intellect. Demosthenes, who when a boy was obliged to put pebbles in his mouth to prevent stuttering, became the greatest orator the world has ever seen. Disraeli, child of a hated race, made himself felt in the most conventional parliament in the world. There are hosts of men and of women in this world, who in spite of the influence of stars, in spite of social disadvantages, in spite of physical deformity or weakness, yea, in spite of fate itself, have by economy of resources, by alertness of intellect and persistency of will, made themselves a power, and thus proven true the words of Cassius when he said:

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars
But in ourselves that we are underlings."

—MAUDE F. MITCHELL, 1900.
THE HATES STUDENT.

Bates Verse.

THE VIOLET'S SECRET.

Tell me, oh tell me, sweet violet,
As I lay my cheek close to your own,
Why the world loves ever the violet
And why you for kind words need not moan.

Whisper, I pray, faintly, your answer,
That I too may be sought for and loved,
Tell how my own life may grow brighter
From the source whence your joy is derived.

But the violet answered nothing,
Just lifted its bright face to the sky,
So I plucked a handful with longing,
Their wonderful secret to spy.

Ah, now I have guessed the real reason,
'Tis as simple as simple can be,
Always be happy whate'er the season
And the world will smile back to thee.

—1902.

IF THEY BUT KNEW.

Oh heart, if they but knew, perchance
A smile would smooth away the frown,
Oft startled by a mocking glance
As light as tufted thistle blown.

Oh heart, if they but knew—are words
Too idle for a mortal theme;
The liquid warblings of the birds
For us, are merely things that seem.

If they but knew, a rarer bloom
Would start from glen and glade to meet
The eye, and e'en the sombre tomb
Would shed an influence dimly sweet.

What is the world, that it should be
So mantled with this dusk of gray?
We only grope, we may not see
Beyond the blinding mist, the way.

Yet sometimes, when sweet Silence calls
To Peace, she rifts the shadowed west—
Whence softly, rosy twilight falls
From some fair island of the Blest.

—'99.
A COUNTRY SCHOOL.

Rising in the early morning,
Looking out to find it storming,
And the school-house good a mile away,
While the home scene stands out brightly,
And the fire-place glowing lightly
Bids you in its warmth to bask all day.

But sterner duty to you calling,
Where the snow o'er fields soft falling
Lies unbroken, and no road you see,
And you plough out through it drifting,
While the storm-cloud, never lifting,
Lets the wind full in your face blow free.

Soon the school-house on the hillside
By the ice-bound, frozen rill-side,
Small and cozy looms in sight,
While the children loudly calling,
As each other they're snow-balling
Form bright spots of color 'gainst the white.

When the school begins, the teacher
Is both friend and guide and preacher
To the little boys and girls who're gathered there,
To answer all the hands uplifted
She must be with patience gifted,
True there's often need of that one virtue rare.

When at last, the day's school over,
Out they rush from under cover,
Boys and girls together brave the storm;
And the teacher, with them going,
Minds not now that it is snowing,
Soon again she sees the homescene bright and warm.

But one finds the evenings brighter,
And the teacher's heart grows lighter,
As before her frequent visions rise
Of some husking where all gather,
Minding not the wind and weather,
For goodly cheer around the hearthstone lies.

All in all one finds life sweeter,
Each day's joys will be completer
If as schoolmarm in the country once she rule,
Life takes on a deeper meaning
From the wayside search and gleaning
After once one's taught and labored in a country school.

—1900.
Auch a year has passed away, and again with glad acclaim we welcome the new. Another milestone passed on the highway of life, and with new courage and new resolves we start afresh upon our journey. How bright the way appears before us as we press forward toward the future. How many are the hopes and pleasures that seem to hover about our path; how few the trials and disappointments. We know, however, from the experiences of the past, that cares and sorrows await us. Some that now seem brightest hopes will prove bitterest disappointments. But remembering the lessons of the past, taking courage from past obstacles overcome and victories won, we bid good-bye to the year that has gone, and turn bravely to meet the problems which the new may bring.

To the most of us it brings another year of the work and pleasures of college life; the privilege of enjoying, with dear companions, the many advantages and opportunities of life at Bates. Every year we can feel the ties of friendship strengthen. Every year we can feel our loyalty to Bates grow deeper and stronger. We rejoice in the prosperity of our Alma Mater. The past year especially has been a most gratifying one; a year marked by growth and progress in every branch of college work. Our fondest hope is that this prosperity may continue, and that, through the days to come, the influence of Bates may be extended ever wider and wider; a mighty power in the uplifting of mankind.

With the first number of the new year a new board of editors assume the management of the Student. We realize keenly the great trust and responsibility placed in our hands. We pledge our utmost endeavor to make it a success. Not alone, however, upon the board of editors rests the responsibility for success or failure. Upon each and every student there rest a responsibility and a duty to his college magazine. We hope that amid the New Year resolutions of everyone may be found the determination to do more and better work for the Student. In this way, and in this alone, can we hope to attain the highest success and make our magazine a fitting representative of the best thought and feeling of our college.
A CONSPICUOUS and noteworthy feature in the progress of the college world within the past year is the abolishing of hazing by the voluntary action of a number of our colleges and universities. This action, which respects the personal rights and dignity of each individual student, condemning the rude horseplay and bullying of the past, is begotten of the spirit of true manliness and integrity, and we second with hearty approval the reception which press and public have tendered to this highly commendable move. We believe that a pretentious, conceited Freshman may more effectively be taught the error of his way by the quiet contempt of his fellows and a curtailment of his privileges among them than by practices which reflect more seriously upon the perpetrator than upon his victim. This movement is rapidly gaining ground among our institutions, and we look for a speedy hastening of its farther progress by the comparatively recent action taken by the student-body of Princeton University.

The reputation of Bates has for years placed her in the van of colleges moving in this direction. She has been and is in this and other ways singularly free from the evils of student life. Our standards are high.

The pace has been set by the small college and the large university—shall we lag behind? Shall we not, students of Bates, organize as a student-body? Shall we not place our institution where its influence shall tell for the interest of true manhood?

"IT is sweating blood," Stevenson said of writing, and the students are few who do not regard the recurring "parts," the society debates, and the contribution to the college magazine with much the same feeling. But beyond the increase in mastery from a dreaded task conscientiously worked out, the theme or argument or sketch holds rewards in solution, which like the evil spirit that "got into Hawthorne's inkstand," can only be got out by penfuls. There is a genuine appreciation of good writing. No need to imitate any particular style to learn the difference between accurate expression and clear thought and unkempt, unskilled work. The surest way to learn is to attempt, not to look on. And when we discover how much meaning is compressed into a single phrase and begin to wonder if our hearers or readers will see the exact shading we intend, we have made
a beginning at the magic power of reading between the lines, and every book holds treble its former contents for us henceforth. There is the appreciation of story book happenings or beautiful sights and sounds in every day’s path, for “reading between the lines” is not confined to print. There is the recognition of the difference between thoughtless cruelty and genuine fun in a story; “setting a thing out” to a laughing audience is very different from “setting it down,” in black and white. No matter what your particular bent is, whether your brain quickens at the statement of a moot point, or you instinctively seek for words to carry away with you the presence of the ranked elms above the moon-lit snow, or wonder what the beginning and ending of the story you have caught in a chance group or face, the attempt to word it clearly will help you to keener logic, swifter insight, more vivid pleasure and deeper sympathy. Of course there is nothing new under the sun, but don’t hesitate therefor, or for fear your work will not add to the highest in literature and outlive the ages. The college magazine, like the graduation essays to which the same audience dutifully listens year after year, proclaims aloud that another section of young people have reached a certain point in the ability to think. And like the debating society, it offers an opportunity to try your mental wings. Extemporaneous debates don’t often go down in tradition to incoming classes, but they testify that the present undergraduates appreciate their privileges.

THIS is the term when we ought to put forth our best endeavors, win the greatest successes in the college year. There is less to distract our attention, and call our minds from their legitimate pursuits, than at any other season of the year. The air is cool and refreshing, and entirely free from the enervating qualities it possesses in the warmer seasons. The evenings are long, and ought to be fully occupied in some good, intellectual development. No student, whose time is not fully occupied with the regular work of the college curriculum, ought to allow his—or her—extra time to be frittered away on the first thing that comes to mind. Suppose we decide to devote some little time, this winter, to some outside study! A greater breadth of scholarship is demanded of students to-day than ever before. He who neglects any opportunity of broadening or deepening his
fund of information, general or special, will find himself crushed to the wall in the wild scramble for success in life. Never was competition so fierce. Never was so much demanded of applicants for positions of trust and responsibility. You will not get such a position unless you are the best fitted applicant for that position.

While we honor the man who shows great physical courage in his services to his country, we must not forget that there are those who exercise, just as truly, a courage worthy our admiration and praise, and yet who never saw a battle.

If we may judge by the small number of men who enter life's battle field with a determination to win for the right, we conclude that it requires more courage to meet problems of life with a manly heart than to face the enemy on the field of carnage. Indeed, we know of men, who have distinguished themselves in war, yet when these same men come face to face with wrong and corruption, they are, we regret to say, a conspicuous failure. Men who will not risk their reputation for their country, will risk their lives. May we not, then, call him a hero, who has the moral courage to stand by his convictions of right and truth, and who performs unflinchingly his duty to himself, his associates and his nation. Such a man has recently passed from our midst, and we hold that Nelson Dingley was a hero, as truly as Washington or Grant. He was a moral hero. He could say no,—when tempted with intoxicating liquors; and when his nation was about to plunge too hastily into war, at a mere pretext, he was one of the foremost in Congress on the opposition, and gave his voice in favor of war only when every means for honorably preserving peace had failed. And when war was finally declared, he was the man to devise a system of revenue to meet the exigency.

But over and above all else that Mr. Dingley has accomplished for his nation and for his fellow-men he has left behind a record, which honors the land that gave him birth; also the record which honors the land that gave him birth; also the morality, that we as a nation must needs re-mold our political life, in order to measure up to his standard of pure politics.
PERSONAL.

'67.—Professor J. H. Rand spent the early part of his vacation at Harvard University, visiting classes in mathematics and interviewing eminent teachers on that subject. He expresses himself in favor of our present method of class work.

'70.—L. G. Jordan's name is to be perpetuated in Lewiston. The authorities have definitely decided to name the Lewiston High School the Jordan School. Mr. Jordan was for fifteen years principal of the school, has been a member of the school board for eleven years, and is now serving his eleventh year as its president.

'70.—W. E. C. Rich, principal of the Mount Vernon School, Boston, recently read a valuable paper on the history of the Boston Free Baptist Church, at the dedication of the new Free Baptist Church there.

'70.—Josiah Chase is conducting a very successful business at York, Me., as treasurer and chief owner of a large water supply company.

'72.—Dr. Alonzo M. Garcelon is a representative to the legislature from Lewiston, and is upon several important committees.

'73.—Hon. N. W. Harris is a representative to the legislature from Auburn, and a member of the Judiciary Committee.

'76.—I. C. Phillips, superintendent of the Lewiston schools, has made some important improvements in the courses of study, especially in mathematics, and in methods of instruction. He is now giving special attention to methods of teaching geography.

'77.—O. B. Clason has been elected President of the Maine Senate.

'81.—Hon. Charles Sumner Cook, a prominent lawyer of Portland, Maine, has been elected a member of the Governor's Council from the second district.

'85.—Hon. Frank A. Morey is a representative to the legislature from Lewiston, and a member of the committee on legal affairs.

'86.—Hon. H. M. Cheney of Laconia, N. H., has been elected a member of the Governor's Council from New Hampshire, and is the youngest member of the Board.
'87.—Leonard G. Roberts has been chosen President of the Park Street Club, Lewiston.

'88.—Fred W. Oakes, who is at the head of a very successful medical establishment for the cure of consumptives, at Denver, Col., was recently visited by parties from Lewiston. The visitors were greatly delighted with its management and conveniences. It is probably the best establishment of its kind in the country.

'89.—Rev. Blanche A. Wright is to deliver a series of lectures on "What to See in London" at the Universalist Church in Livermore Falls, Maine.

'92.—Born to W. B. Skelton and wife (née Miss Florence L. Larrabee, Bates, '91), a son, Harold Newell, January 1, 1899.

'92.—Hon. Cyrus N. Blanchard is a member of the Maine Senate from Franklin County, and is chairman of the important Committee on Education.

'94.—Charles Sumner Webb and Cassie Evelyn Gaylord were married, Dec. 22, 1898, at South Hadley, Mass. Mr. Webb is teaching at Sherborn, Mass.

'94.—S. I. Graves, who recently resigned his position as principal of the grammar schools of Augusta, is now at the head of one of the largest grammar schools in Springfield, Mass. The expressions of regret through the columns of the Kennebec Journal voicing the feeling of the people of Augusta bear ample testimony to the work of Mr. Graves in that city and to the universal confidence and regard in which he was held. As a man influential in the cause of temperance and good legislation the city has lost not only an eminently successful teacher, but also an active, wide-awake citizen. Many are the "God speed you's" which follow him in his success.

'95.—W. S. C. Russell, principal of the Story High School, Manchester, Mass., is taking a private course in mathematical crystallography and microscopical petrography with Dr. Sears, curator of the mineral collection in the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass.

'95.—Miss May Nash accepts a position in the public schools of Woburn, Mass., which she will carry in addition to her studies in Boston.

'96.—Miss Flora A. Mason, principal of the Springfield Normal School, gave a recital in Orono. She has of late won much attention by her readings and lectures in and about Boston.
ON the day of Hon. Nelson Dingley's funeral service at Lewiston, January 18th, the college dispensed with the regular recitations, and in the morning held a very impressive service in honor of the departed friend and trustee of the college. Professor Anthony very appropriately read the 1st Psalm, and after singing by the students, Dr. Graif, pastor of Main Street Church, offered prayer, in which he thanked God for the noble life which had gone out. After this Dr. Howe, Dean of the Cobb Divinity School, spoke of Mr. Dingley's noble character, and said that the secret of Mr. Dingley's success was in the foundation of an honest Christian character. He mentioned also his simplicity in connection with the great work which he performed, and said that he had left us an example worthy of imitation, and, that while we all may not be endowed with the ability which Mr. Dingley had, we may all have the same foundation with which he started, namely, a Christian character. Dr. Howe in closing said, "His work is done, but it is a question whether his usefulness will not be as great to the people as he has been in life. His death calls attention to his success won by honesty, fidelity, purity, and sincerity."

President Chase then spoke from his acquaintance with Mr. Dingley as a friend and as a trustee of the college. In brief he said: "Of all the gatherings which have been held in memory of Mr. Dingley, none is more appropriate than this. Mr. Dingley was a student, and, when he spoke to us last term, he said that he was at home with students. He loved study, and his success may be traced to the fact that he was a practical scholar and his life is pregnant with lessons for the student.

"Mr. Dingley was beloved by even the humblest citizen of Lewiston, but he inspired only the awe which intellect inspires. He sacrificed many of the pleasures of life, in order that he might better perform his great duties. Regular in his habits, he retired at ten o'clock; no intoxicating liquor or tobacco passed his lips. He was never a frequenter of the club. He loved his Bible, was simple and modest, yet he had power in the halls of Congress."

"He began much as many of us begin—a poor boy, and with
such a man, one of the trustees from the first, it is no wonder that Bates College is a success in the true ideas of scholarship, and has adopted those temperance pledges which make us unique among colleges."

At the close of the President's address, Professor Anthony presented the following resolutions, which upon the motion of Professor Jordan were adopted by the college:

IN MEMORY OF NELSON DINGLEY.

We mourn the loss of one of our country's noblest statesmen, Congressman Nelson Dingley, a resident of our municipality, but a citizen of the nation, and known wherever affairs of government are mentioned, a man of unsullied reputation and blameless Christian character.

In his sixty-seventh year—by no means aged—with a still greater future of usefulness and honor before him, at a time when the nation, entering upon untried experiences of world-wide import, would have furnished opportunities for statesmanship more nearly like those enjoyed by Gladstone and Bismarck, who far passed their fourscore years in public service, Mr. Dingley seems cut off with his life incomplete; yet already in knowledge of public affairs, in integrity and honesty of purpose and in the weight of his well-matured opinions, no statesman of this generation has surpassed him, none will be more widely and keenly missed.

To our college community Mr. Dingley's career was particularly inspiring. He represented the solid qualities of manhood. By hard work, by persistent and painstaking application, by sterling honesty and incorruptible motives he had won his successes. These motives and methods of his life the students of Bates College heard from his own lips but a few weeks ago, and they cannot be forgotten.

A trustee of the college from the very foundation, Mr. Dingley was always devoted to the best interests of the institution. His counsels and his services who now can supply?

With a sense of loss peculiarly our own, we join with the bereaved family and stricken nation in mutual sorrow and mutual condolences, and, extending our sympathy, seek ourselves comfort from Him who wisely orders the affairs of men and nations.

Approved by the Faculty and students of Bates College in Memorial Service assembled, this 18th day of January, 1899.

Alfred Williams Anthony,
Thomas L. Angell,
William H. Hartshorn,

Committee.
GLIMPSES OF COLLEGE LIFE.

Influenced by Shakespeare.

The idea of electives!
I'm sure, we cannot say
It is of good productive,
However choose, you may.

There are so many things that test
The student in his selection,
That when he has done his level best,
He has the wrong collection.

Last term Professor Hartshorn,
Bright Juniors taught to quote
Many lines from Shakespeare—
To repeat them all by rote.

"Throw Physic (s) to the Dogs"
Is one they will distinguish;
So when asked what they'd elect,
Most all said they'd take English.

Clason, 1900, is page in the Maine Senate.
The gymnasium work commences in earnest.
We all sympathize deeply with Dutton, '99, in the death of his sister.
The members of 1900 welcome Miss Baldwin, who has advanced from 1901.
E. B. Stackpole, formerly of Bates, 1900, is one of the '99 Board of the Bowdoin Quill.
Wing, 1900, has been studying shorthand during the vacation, at Lewiston Business College.
W. R. Ham, 1901, has decided not to enter Bowdoin Medical School this year. We would gladly welcome him back to Bates.
Professor Stanton, who is in very good health this winter, has members of all the classes, excepting the Seniors, now under his instruction.
Professor Hartshorn, the first part of January gave his lecture, "Book Making and Book Reading," in Dexter. Some of the students suggest that the Professor allow us the privilege of listening to it.
President Chase came from Boston Monday, January 16th, on account of the death of Congressman Dingley. He returned after the funeral Wednesday.

Basket-ball is commencing to rage anew. There is talk of an intercollegiate basket-ball game between Bates and Colby, to occur some time during the winter.

Professor Geer is quite ill with pneumonia. Bassett, '99, is conducting his class in Political Economy, and Catheron, 1900, his History classes.

Professor Geer addressed the 4 o'clock meeting at the Lewiston Y. M. C. A.; subject, "God's Hand in History." The address received the good attention which it deserved.

We congratulate Pulsifer, '99, in the good reports which we hear from him. "Nate" is instructor of athletics at Hebron Academy during the winter term.

The Glee Clubs make merry the first part of the noon hour. Both clubs are holding rehearsals regularly, which must bring good results in the near future.

Morse, 1900, was called to his home the first of the term by the death of a sister. His classmates and fellow-students sympathize with him in this bereavement.

The much desired foot-ball game with Harvard has been arranged. Bates will, if nothing interferes, meet Harvard in Cambridge, October 18, 1899.

The following students, Stewart, '99, Hussey and Elder, 1900, Miss Hayes, '99, Miss Osborne and Miss Towle, 1901, and Miss McCollister took parts in the play, "Zephra," in order to escape the tedium of vacation.

During the illness of Miss Emma Chase, '97, teacher of Greek in Edward Little High School, Miss Hayes, '99, has been filling the position. We are glad to learn that Miss Chase, who has had the grip, has recovered sufficiently to resume her duties.

The Faculty and students of Bates are very much grieved at the death of Hon. Nelson Dingley, which occurred in Washington, D. C., Friday, January 13th. Mr. Dingley has always shown himself an active friend of the college, and has been a member of the board of trustees, since the founding of the institution.
At a special meeting of the Lewiston Board of Trade, in which several of the business men of Lewiston gave expressions of their grief at the loss of their distinguished friend and fellow-citizen, the late Congressman Dingley, President Chase was the principal speaker and spoke very fittingly of his associations with the departed, especially emphasizing his connections with the college.

GYMNASIUM WORK.

Gymnasium Work began Monday, January 16th. All students required to take work as follows: All young men living in Lewiston, required four hours work a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. All young ladies living in Lewiston, required three hours a week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. All students living in Auburn required two hours work a week, Wednesday and Saturday. No required work for Seniors.

Gymnasium work will be ranked on the same basis as any study, and counts equally with the work of other departments for class standing. Attendance to count $\frac{1}{2}$. All students taking regular work required to wear gymnasium suits. Hours for gymnasium work as follows:

Young ladies—Freshman, 1.30 to 2.15; Sophomore and Junior, 2.15 to 3.

Young men—Juniors, 3 to 3.45; Sophomores, 3.45 to 4.30; Freshman, 4.30 to 5.15. Wednesday and Saturday, young ladies living in Auburn, 2 to 3; young men living in Auburn, 3.15 to 4.15.

Business is good at the “Gym,” and Mr. Bolster is the busiest man about the college. The classes are larger every year and this increases his work. Mr. B. is the only Professor in the institution who has the students of all the four classes.

College Exchanges.

The first session with the tableful of exchanges is very much like the first college meeting to a Freshman, in the curious feeling of being in a new world made up of one's own comrades, of traveling in a great company along a definite road, and especially, of recognizing familiar language on strange lips. It is a silent Congress of Colleges, instead of a Parliament of Persons.
The items and articles relating to interclass and intercollegiate debating, which are plentiful this month, particularly in some of the western magazines, tell of a wide-spread interest in a department of college work well known at Bates.

The Orono Cadet prints a vigorous article by L. A. Rogers, '96, on Debates at the University of Wisconsin.

“Wisconsin men claim that their debating system is the best of any American college and their success in intercollegiate debates would seem to bear them out. They have debated all of the large colleges of the middle west and have been defeated only once. At one time last year three distinct teams were preparing to represent Wisconsin in intercollegiate debates. These three teams were made up entirely of undergraduates and did not include some of the best debaters, who were graduate students. Meetings of the debating societies are held every Friday night and a full attendance is gained by rigidly enforced penalties for absence.”

The annual debate between U. of P. and Michigan will be on the subject: “Resolved, That, under existing conditions, the abolition of all civilized nations of their armies and navies, other than those required for the maintenance of their domestic police, is feasible.” Michigan has the affirmative and Pennsylvania the negative.

Brown, undiscouraged by last year’s defeat, has again challenged Dartmouth, and the second debate is to occur in Providence some time in March.—Brunonian.

Ohio State University will meet Western Reserve in February. The question reads—Resolved, that the United States should annex Cuba.—Adelbert.

The subject of the Sophomore-Freshman Debate (won by 1901) at the University of California last month was: Resolved, that the people of California should accept the initiative and referendum.—Occident.

Nearer home, the Acadian Athenæum has an article interesting even to strangers on a subject of a class not too popular with students—“Wolfville as a College Town.”

Before we leave the Provinces, the University Monthly (New Brunswick) has a noteworthy essay on “Ideal Friendship,” which elaborates the sentence of Mark Antony, “He was my friend, faithful and just to me.”

Amherst Literary Monthly contains a pathetic sketch of an “innocents’” delusion and disappointment, and an article of interest on “Gods of Forest and Mountain.” The writer of the
latter traces the origin of nature personation among different peoples, and points out the survival of the instincts which gave it birth. "The gods have passed away, but there still remain with us as full as ever the causes of their conception, and only a little imagination, a little love of nature, is needed to bear us back throughout the ages until, with Kipling’s primitive man, we feel

"The Troll and Gnome and Dwerp, the Gods of Cliff and Berg,
Were about me and beneath me and above."

Wellesley Slip Sheets brings a fascinating description by S. G. Thompson, 1902, of the Lorna Doone country.

The Peabody Record contrasts German and American churches and church music. "You go to church in Germany—the crowd passes in, the people do not seem to know each other or think of each other; there is one purpose in the heart of each. There is no private conversation. Nothing distracts."

THE MYTH OF MYTHS.
Spare me your sagas of Olaf and Eric,
Lifeless and charmless, that Northern scalds troll;
Spare me your vapors of legend and lyric;
There's but one legend can brighten the soul.
Fold me again in my infancy's glamour;
Brighten my eyes with the visions of yore;
Tune my sad voice to my youth's joyous clamor;
Bring my old Santa Claus to me once more.

Long are the years since he rudely was banished;
Long since his genial smile lightened my mind.
Glamour and romance and vision have vanished,
Leaving a void, dull and aching, behind.
Facts and reality crowd without measure,
Clamoring loudly admittance to gain;
Still I hold sacred, with pain and with pleasure,
Room in my heart where thou wouldest to reign.

Gentle Saint Nicholas, thanks for thy kindness.
Thou art not changed; 'tis developing mind
Casting the scales of her infantile blindness—
Nay, is she not rather growing more blind?
Some day, perchance, the world's facts disappearing,
Fancy shall finish the work then begun;
Then shall these weary eyes, suddenly clearing,
View a Saint Nicholas bright as the sun.

—Miami Student.
'POSSUM TIME.

Oh! dem niggahs is a-shoutin' up dat mountain road toe-night;
Doan yo' heah de bayin' ob dat yallcr houn'?
Fo' de frost is on de stubble and de moon is shinin' bright,
An' dat 'possum fat is jes a-roamin' roun'.

Chinca-pins is fallin' fast
'Neath dat silber moon;
'Possum up de 'simmon tree,
Kotch um dar, brack coon.

Doan yo' see dem blazin' pine-knots jes a-shinin' thro' de wood?
Heah dem pickinninies singin' loud an' gay?
Fo' dey's thinkin' 'bout dat hoe-cake an' dat 'possum gravy good—
Hunt dat 'possum, yo brack coons, till break ob day.

Chinca-pins is fallin' fast,
Frost is on de groun';
'Possum up de 'simmon tree,
Bring dat 'possum down.

—The Mountaineer.

Our Book-Shelf.

_Hassan: A Fellah_, is the title of a romance of Palestine by Henry Gilman. The first thing that we notice, in reading this work, is that we are breathing the atmosphere of the Orient. The author seems to have abandoned completely the Occidental conception of social relations; to have described the manners and customs, the hopes and aspirations of the Fellaheen, or native Mohammedan population, with as little prejudice as one born in Western lands and trained in Western ideals could do. Hassan is a nobly-formed, intellectually-endowed shepherd, and our sympathy is with him from the time he is introduced till the end of the book. There is much in him to admire, and his faults are those of the country, not of the man. The work is mainly a story of his efforts and final success in winning Hilwe, a native girl in his own rank of life. Between the two villages in which Hassan and Hilwe dwelt, there had existed a Thar, or blood-feud, for so many years that no one in either village knew its origin, but it was none the less bitter on that account. Coupled with this obstacle, was the fact that Hilwe's father had promised her—for a consideration—to a middle-aged man of his own village, who, having three wives already, would seem to western minds, quite well supplied without any addition. The Cretans revolted and Hassan was conscripted to serve in a Syrian regiment sent to put down the insurrection. Here he rose rapidly and came home an officer, with an enviable reputation. The book is well worth reading from the light it throws on the manners and customs of these people. Character is well delineated, and in many respects it is a strong work. The author seems, however, to have scat-
tered his intellectual forces, if I may use such an expression. An underplot is introduced, and greater amount of time and space devoted to it than its utility in the story would warrant. Although it is made to subserve various technical ends, and could not be wholly dispensed with, its greatest office is to relieve the mind, wearied by long contemplation of the Orient. But this is purchased by a depreciation of our interest in the main story. And even in the main plot continuity is not so well preserved as we could wish. Too much time is devoted to describing manners and customs, and giving bits of general information unnecessary to the comprehension of the work. This, while valuable information, is indulged in so excessively as seriously to retard the action—a thing that is pardonable only if it is necessary to a proper comprehension of the work.

Stories of the Cherokee Hills, by Maurice Thompson, is a collection of stories relating to the transition stage between slavery and freedom, in the mountains of Georgia. The author announces his determination of fixing "in imperishable, even if crude form, the curious effects wrought by negro slavery upon the lives of the illiterate, stubborn, and absolutely independent dwellers among the arid and almost inaccessible mountains of the South." But the stories will never be read for the history in them, however correctly it may be drawn, since they deal with so slight a portion of history. But they are told in the negro and Georgia-mountain dialect, with a quaint, merry humor that makes them very interesting, and well portrays the loose social relations between master and slave in the mountain region, just before the Civil War. The following, taken from the first page, is the keynote of the book. "When I was a boy Bud Peevy said to me: 'Ef ye've a-hankerin' to know what ye don't want ter know, yes' ax a ole man what he thinks o' a young un'. Bud was, himself, neither young nor old. 'I kin look both ways,' he often remarked, 'an see back inter the what was an for'rd inter the goin'ter be. They's both poorty much erlike. What wus didn't satisfy nobody, an' what's er goin' ter be'll never make no livin' soul happy. We loses an' we finds; but we never finds ag'in what we loses, an' we never has a dern thing wo'th er huntin' fer when we've lost it.'"

We have received a volume of poems by Florence Earle Coates. Many of these poems are exceedingly readable. The diction is clear and precise, and the thought free from the incoherence which marks so much of modern poetry. Many of the poems deal with metaphysical subjects. The author seems to have meditated much on the mysteries of life.

1 Hassan, a Romance of Palestine. By Henry Gillman. Little, Brown & Co. $2.00.
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