

VOL. II.

MARCH, 1901.

NO. 8.

— THE —
Grasmian,

The Magazine of
The High School, Dublin.



DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY ROBERT T. WHITE, 45 FLEET STREET.

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The Erasmusian.

No. 8.

MARCH.

1901.

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THE ERASMIAN.

DUBLIN, MARCH, 1901.

School News.

The Governors have kindly promised to subscribe £5 annually to the support of the "Erasmian."

School resumed after the Christmas vacation to greet the new century on Jan. 10th. The joyous acclamations with which it was welcomed were soon hushed by the sad news of the death of our beloved Queen on January 24th. No words can express the solemnity of our hearts when we assembled next morning and were briefly addressed by the Head Master and Rev. Maurice Day on the great loss we had all suffered.

The School adjourned on Saturday, February 2nd, the day of the funeral, the gloomiest day we can remember.

Ash Wednesday was likewise a *dies non*, nor was there any school on Friday, February 22nd, when the prizes and certificates won at the Examination held last Christmas under the auspices of the Synod of the Church of

Ireland were distributed in the Synod Hall of Christchurch Cathedral, by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.

Our first merit holiday this term was on Thursday, February 28th.

We print elsewhere the results of the Christmas Scripture Examinations. Here we merely congratulate all the successful competitors. The Greek Testament results were very fine. Although we have not repeated the performance of the past four years in winning the Silver Medal, we have gained the second, third, and fourth places. It is a long while since we have had so many as six firsts, while there are in addition two second and one third class prizes and four pass certificates. J. C. Duncan, who just missed the medal, is only of the Middle Grade Intermediate age, and M. A. C. Wilkins, who won a first-class, only of the Junior Grade age. In the Junior Grade Scripture E. G. M. Norton answered splendidly, and had very hard luck in missing a Silver Medal by half a mark.

We heartily congratulate Rev. Maurice Day on being created a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.

As boys are constantly asking us about Mr. Ward, we are happy to say that he is flourishing in Huddersfield, and sends his kind regards through us to all his High School friends. We hope he will one day send us something to print in the pages of the *Erasmian* (*vide* our Oxford Letter).

We are glad to hear that O. Moriarty is making a good recovery, and will be back with us again after Easter.

By the time this appears the Cup Matches for 1901 will probably be things of the past. But as a matter of reference the draws are as follows:—A. St. Andrew's, a bye; B. Stephen's Green School *v.* St. Columba's; C. Blackrock *v.* Wesley; D. High School *v.* Corrig; E. St. Andrew's *v.* Winners of B.; F. Winners of C. *v.* Winners of D.; G. Winners of E. *v.* Winners of F. "Never prophecy unless you know" is a good motto; and as any prophecy of ours is likely to be stultified while we are at press, we forbear, and merely trust our team will do themselves and the School credit.

Our attention has been called to a fact about Livingstone, the great explorer, of which we were hitherto

ignorant. A London publisher advertises a book by H. M. Stanley entitled "How I Found Livingstone, well-bound in part (of a) Green Calf." The natural history of this statement is also somewhat startling!

The well-known text "The labourer is worthy of his hire" gave rise in a recent examination to two various readings—"The labourer is worthy of his pile," and "The labourer is worthy of his fire." An Italian resident ventured a third—"The labourer is worthy of his lire."

Will the mangling of Horace never cease? Behold the following:—

Hoc habuere bonæ paces uentique secundi.

This was the result of a good pace and second wind!

We have lately seen some timber lying in the inner yard. Is this the "inutile lignum" from which will come the shapely cycle stands, long promised?

An anonymous correspondent has sent us a much welcomed account of an amateur theatrical performance celebrated by High School Boys during the Christmas holidays. We extended a greeting to this rival Irish Literary Theatre a year ago, and are glad that it is still flourishing. Ludat amabiliter!

Lacrimae Britanniarum.

While stand we here beside the open grave,
That soon shall hold the Dead that was
our Queen,
Our thoughts fly South, where solemn trees
do wave

Their gaunt black arms o'er that fair
island scene,

Where late She ruled, observant and serene,
Loving the wild sea-paths, where snow-
drops clear

Now peep abroad, with virginal pure mien
And bare their beauties to the skies austere.
*Toll slowly, bells, toll slowly, the gracious
Dead comes here.*

Though now that isle be desolate and grey,
And nature stirs not, save in hazel tip,
Or sallow's hardy bough, but yet a day
Full bright there was for dearest
fellowship,

As by Her Consort's side their sons did trip,
While yet no shadow was, or chilling fear,
Of that dread cup that one should shortly sip,
And passing hence leave none to be his
peer.

*Toll slowly, bells, toll slowly, the gracious
Dead comes here.*

Long years, alone, our widowed Lady
reigned,

And watched the gathering tide of
Empire flow,

Resistless, great and free, that never waned
Under Her constant Rule. And to and
fro,

Where the grim Needles raise their points
of woe,

She saw Her merchant ships, in full
career,

Spreading abroad Her fame. Then fell
the blow—

"The Queen lies dying!" Alas the
tidings drear!

*Toll slowly, bells, toll slowly, the gracious
Dead comes here.*

Straight from that Silent Highway—deep
and green

As seas that surge o'er drowned Aleyone—
The ill news spread. In every place
terrene,

On waters all, where flies our ensign free,
Flag signalled flag, fluttering gloomily.
And not a ship, that out or home did steer,

But mourned with us within the Kingdoms
Three,

For that life ebbed from Her we held so
dear.

*Toll slowly, bells, toll slowly, the gracious
Dead comes here.*

The melancholy dirge of the dull sea
Came portent-like to Osborne's watchers
all;

The night wind wailed, as if mysteriously,
Car-borne on clouds, swept by a funeral
pall;

Then, the Last Summons to that island Hall
Inexorably came; near, and yet more
near,

The hush of angels' wings, as God did call
Our Well-beloved from out this earthly
sphere.

*Toll slowly, bells, toll slowly, the gracious
Dead is here.*

THE QUEEN IS DEAD! Echoes the Khyber's
wall,

The Queen is dead! The hillman on the
peak,

Forgetting foe, forgetting tribal brawl,
Speeds with the news to sirdar or malik.

In far Peshawar, Gurka and stately Sikh
Command their Empress to the great
God's care.

By Huron's lake, by Hudson's waters bleak,
The Empire mourns a Queen beyond
compare.

*Toll slowly, bells, toll slowly, the gracious
Dead lies there.*

And here the last sad office do we pay,
By Her own Royal Windsor, plunged in
gloom.

"Earth unto earth," the Preacher's voice
doth say,

As lower, and yet lower, droops the plume
Of England's King, now guarding in Her
room

These Islands beautiful. And now from
air,

And sun, and sea, She passes to the Tomb,
Laid by his side, wrapped in God's peace
most fair.

*Toll slowly, bells, more slowly, and now
forbear, forbear.*

T. P. STUART.

4th February, 1901.

Notes on Old Boys.

Among the figures that came prominently before the public on the occasion of the proclamation of King Edward VII. one of the most conspicuous was that of Harry Blake, Athlone Pursuivant at Arms. He also took a noteworthy part last April when the Queen rode into Dublin at the formal admission of her Majesty into our ancient city. Who did not envy him as he rode forward attired in quaint heraldic uniform and gorgeous tabard, the "cynosure of neighbouring eyes?"

H. B. Hunt is now putting up on a Boer farm of 1,000 acres in Cape Colony on the Eerste River. He has had an interview with the great and only B. P., and we hope to publish in an early number some extracts from a series of most interesting letters which he has written home.

Pennell Brownrigg has written to us from Standerton. He is constantly on the move, and letters take months to reach him, but he has never been so well. He has sent us a short account of the Hospital work he is engaged in, which is very interesting, and will appear in our next, and promises to follow it up with another short article which is sure to be acceptable.

Dr. Howard Sharpe having spent the last year with the British forces near

Mafeking has now returned home. He enjoys the distinction of being the only man out of 500 who escaped every kind of sickness.

Dr. W. C. Stevenson has successfully passed the examination for the Royal Army Medical Corps.

J. A. Nairn, Head Master of Merchant Taylors' School, was ordained at Christmas.

The following have been admitted as Solicitors by the Lord Chancellor:—A. S. Armstrong, whom our readers will remember as a cyclist and footballer; H. Campbell, distinguished as a cricketer; F. C. D. Joynt, and H. B. P. Wilson.

H. A. Sloan has passed into the Home Civil Service, Second Division.

Archie Rosenthal gave a pianoforte recital in London at the St. James's Hall on Tuesday afternoon, February 12th.

"Assisi," part of whose essay on the "Housing of the Poor" appears in the present issue, is the *nom de plume* of the Rev. J. C. Forrester, who is now quite at home "across the water" in his parish, St. George's, where he has plenty of opportunity of studying the problems on which he writes so well.

Our Trinity Notes bear witness to his many sided interests.

Dr. W. R. Armstrong has been unanimously re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Central Board of the I.C.A.

D. Dunlop, of the Dublin University Club, was again chosen to represent Ireland on the International Hockey Team. He played inside right forward on February 16th, and was excellent throughout, scoring three out of the nine goals to Ireland's credit against the Welsh one.

C. J. Stuart was chosen to play hockey for Antrim against County Down. The Ulster inter-provincial team was chosen as the result of this match, and it was a great disappointment that he was prevented from playing by a severe attack of quinsy, from which we are very glad to learn that he has now quite recovered.

We must congratulate G. D. Gray on his marriage. He had a very distinguished career in college, and was Mathematical Scholar in 1887.

Likewise and for a similar reason Rev. H. B. Stone, curate of Armagh, who was well known on the running track at Trinity.

Among other distinctions at Trinity we specially notice the winners of

the Vice-Chancellor's Prizes, F. A. Longworth for Latin Verse, and J. A. O. Fitzpatrick for English Prose (second place).

Obituary.

With deep regret we announce the death of two High School Boys towards the end of last year. H. B. Colclough, who had left school, succumbed in November as the result of an operation. Frederick William Francis, the elder son of William Graham, Fleet Surgeon, R.N., was in the 5th Form, and after only a few days' illness died at the age of 17 on December 3rd, dearly loved and deeply regretted.

College Notes.

The Christmas festivities having been safely passed, the College has settled down for work. The Hilary Term is recognised as the working Term, Trinity being the "Slackers'" Term, while Michaelmas is occupied with opening meetings of every kind. The Commencements before Christmas were the dullest on record; the stray jib who strayed in to see what was up retired in disgust at the earliest opportunity.

The death of the Queen cast an impenetrable gloom over College in the last days of January and during Febru-

ary. The place was permeated with an unusual quietness and pervaded with universal mourning, which was broken only by the tolling of the big bell. It tolled twice a day, and nothing more oppressively gloomy and dismal could be imagined. On the day of the funeral a largely attended and most impressive Memorial Service was held in the Chapel.

We regret very much that omissions were made in our last number in the list of O.H.S. boys honoured in the Historical Society at the beginning of this session. The following is a correct list:—Elected Record Secretary, Guilamore O'Grady; elected on General Committee (at top of poll), Rev. J. C. Forrester (Sch.), B.A.; also elected on General Committee—H. St. M. Carter, W. T. Pigott, and C. H. Darley; awarded Silver Medals for Oratory—Rev. J. C. Forrester (Sch.), B.A., and F. A. Longworth (Sch.), B.A., Univ. Stud.; certificates for Oratory—R. Hodgins, B.A.; C. H. Darley, Guilamore O'Grady, R. G. Leonard; President's Gold Medal for Composition—Rev. J. C. Forrester (Sch.), B.A. Six of the fifteen elected posts and seven of the fourteen awards came to H. S.—a magnificent total for one school.

The Queen's death, of course, has disturbed the meetings this term. No meeting was held on the Wednesday after her death, on which evening we

had expected Lord Ashbourne to take the chair; and on the following Wednesday the Society adjourned immediately after passing a suitable resolution.

The meetings of the Phil. have been similarly interrupted, and nothing of remarkable interest has occurred there lately, if we except an election just before Christmas which brought down 95 members.

The Inter-Varsity match with Cambridge took place just before Christmas, and Dublin won by a goal to a try, amid great jubilations. The match was splendid to watch, and the Irishmen, it goes without saying, deserved their win. The Cup Ties should furnish a good display. For the first time for years T.C.D. got no "green cap."

"T.C.D." has appeared again. Rumour has it that a new editor is in control, and that still old "Erasmians" contribute largely to its management. Should it survive the "University man in Khaki" its future should be for ever assured.

Football News.

After our successful opening, we have suffered great misfortune for a long time, and experienced a series of bad

defeats, which may be safely put down to the loss of the services of H. Thrift and L. Bayly, who are our best backs. We were without their services from the middle of November till January.

At present we have won 5 matches, drawn 2, and lost 9, and have crossed our opponents' line 34 times to their 28, and have totalled 143 points to their 140.

There are a few changes in the team; A. Crosbie (three-quarter) having left, his place has been taken by F. M'Connell, formerly a forward. Killingley (half) has also gone, and E. Barton now plays there. C. H. Alexander has got his place in the pack, and is a great acquisition. The last place in the forwards is still vacant, two members running very close for it. However, as the draw for the Cup Ties is out, this will soon be settled. We meet our old rivals Corrig once again in the Cup Ties. Let us hope we will be more successful this year than formerly.

The High School *v.* Masonic.—Played at Belgrave Square in very wet weather, which may have accounted for the fact that only 13 men turned up for us. The result was 4 goals and 1 try in favour of Masonic. Bayly was unfortunately hurt and had to stop playing, having twisted his ankle.

The High School *v.* Blackrock.—Played at Belgrave Square, and lost by 1 goal, 1 pen. goal, and 2 tries to nil. We were without Thrift and Bayly. The team was deplorably out of training. We held our own in the first half, but went to pieces in the second. Smartt played very well at full.

H.S.D. *v.* Lansdowne III.—This match took place on December 10th at Lansdowne Road, and was lost by 6 tries to nil. We were two men short, while several of the team were unable to play.

The High School *v.* St. Columba's College.—Played on our ground on Wednesday, December 12th, and resulted in a win for the visitors by 3 goals and 3 tries to 1 try (Farran). The forwards played well, notably Powell and Duggan, and T. P. M. Orr at half was excellent, but the three-quarters made the poorest attempts at tackling one could wish to see. The team was a very weak one indeed.

The High School *v.* Old St. Mary's II.—This match was played on their ground on February 6th, and was the first match of the year. We were at full strength, except for Purser. The ground was terribly frozen, and a very hard fought game ensued, in which we were defeated by the narrow margin of 1 point, the scores being: Old St.

Mary's, 4 tries; High School, 1 goal and 2 tries (Bayly 2), one of which Thrift converted, and M'Connell (1). Bayly deserves special mention for his play.

The High School *v.* Santry Collegiate School (Portarlinton).—This match, which took place at Belgrave Square on our ground on Saturday, February 9th, ended in a win for us by 1 goal (Thrift off his own try), 1 try (Bayly), and 1 pen. goal to nil. The team then dined and went down to Lansdowne Road to see the International.

The High School *v.* Wesley College.—Played at Belgrave Square on Wednesday, February 13th, and ended in a win for Wesley by 2 tries to nil. It was a hard game, and the ground was very soft; our forwards were quite outmatched, not only in weight, but in cleverness. Bayly and Thrift in the backs were very prominent in saving, whilst Stritch, Powell and Barton did good work in the forwards.

The High School *v.* St. Stephen's Green School.—This match took place on Tuesday, December 19th, at Belgrave Square, and ended in a decisive victory for the home team by 3 goals (Thrift off 2 of his own tries and 1 of Orr's), and 2 tries (Thrift 1 and Bayly 1) to a try. High School played two short and three substitutes, whilst our

opponents played several substitutes also.

The 2nd XV.—Our Second XV. have played two matches, winning one and losing the other.

The first was against St. Columba's College at the Square, in which our opponents scored 1 try, whilst we succeeded in scoring three times, and converting one try, Leland, Barton and Hall being the scorers.

In our next match against Wesley College our opponents succeeded in scoring in the last few minutes and converted.

Our fellows played very well, and had bad luck in not pulling off a victory.

Cycling Notes.

Each Cycling year opens with sad reflections on the decadence of Cycle Club life. Every wheeling scribe becomes most indignant about this time, and clamours to be told why clubs do not hold runs as they used to do. The theme is somewhat old by now, but we have never seen in print what seems to us a fairly satisfactory explanation; it runs in this wise. In the olden times of cycling (we mean a few years ago) the man who owned and rode a bicycle was an object of admiration. You would think we meant puns if we said that the rider of the 54-inch ordinary was looked up to, but so it was. In

those wonderful days of old, Club-men wore a skin-tight uniform of navy blue or green, braided like a soldier's, their cap was like the old army forage cap, and there were buglers and pace-makers, captains and secretaries, committee men, club poets, and caterers. In those days it was worth while to belong to a cycle club for the grandeur alone. Now it is a tame affair; the cycle is an everyday necessity, with no more splendour about it than there is about a telegraph pole, and if we cycle we have generally an ulterior motive: we ride to fish or play tennis or bathe. Seldom do we cycle for the sake of the ride itself. The gorgeousness of the cycle has disappeared for ever. Henceforward we will go to school on it, but on a holiday its use will be a secondary one.

Res Equinæ.

An American paper rather sleepily says it was a curious thing recently to see a horse in town pull the plug out of the bung-hole of a barrel and slake his thirst. We do not see anything extraordinary in the occurrence. If the horse had pulled the barrel out of the bung-hole and slaked his thirst with the plug, or if the barrel had pulled the bung-hole out of the plug and slaked its thirst with the horse, or if the plug had pulled the horse out of the barrel and slaked its thirst with the bung-

hole, or if the bung-hole had pulled the thirst out of the horse and slaked its plug with the barrel, or if the barrel had pulled the horse out of the bung-hole and plugged its thirst with a slake, it might be worth while to make a fuss over it.

F. M'C.

A Christmas Play.

(NOT A PANTOMIME).

Among the entertainments given in Dublin last Christmas was a successful amateur theatrical performance, the play being written and acted by some boys of the High School. This went off with considerable fun and spirit, and with not a little credit to both author and actors. The mishaps were few (and what amateur performance is without them?), and the fact that a venerable and blanketed chief—while delivering a speech with much force to an attentive circle of warlike listeners in the depths of a gloomy forest—accidentally caused the downfall of several trees in the neighbourhood, was merely attended by a round of applause from the audience. The plot was cast in the time of our savage Irish ancestors of a thousand years ago, and the warriors who took part in the drama were very fierce to behold, clad in short tunics, and blankets of many colours, and carrying murderous battle-axes. The plot was entirely original, and was

based upon the feud of two ancient Irish clans, who made it up most amiably in the end, and, it is to be hoped, lived happy ever afterwards.

The play was called "The Fair Ayna," and the heroine figured in by far the most exciting scene of all. She ventured at midnight to the gloomy habitation of a witch, and suddenly the weird, uncanny creature descended through the air on a broomstick, and after various mysterious words stirred up a cauldron, which immediately sent a succession of brilliant red flames almost to the ceiling, greatly to the horror of the *mater familias*. This startling effect was owing to an accident, and was equally unexpected by actors and audience, and the astonished witch breaking down in the middle of a striking speech, the curtain brought the scene to an untimely finish. The play ended with an epilogue delivered by the author in the character of a bard, and the last lines certainly show that our ancestors of a thousand years ago had wonderfully prophetic views regarding the future:—

" Though other clans at war are now,
 In future they'll be joined;
 Proud hearts of steel to One shall
 bow,
 A Queen of steadfast mind.
 In southern climes where glows the
 sun
 With fiery brightness strong,
 They'll serve their Queen, and victory
 won,
 They will be praised for long.

Their names in glory's roll are writ,
 I see them large and clear,
 The Inniskillings, Connaughts, with
 The Dublin Fusilier."

The High School.

[A Roman Catholic deputation waited on the Chief Secretary on 30th Jan., 1901, in reference to their getting a share in the Erasmus Smith Endowments, alleged by them to be about £10,000 per annum. Mr. Wyndham regretted that he could not agree with their views. The Rev. D. Humphrey, P.P., said in his speech—"They (the trustees) had expended more than £30,000 on the so-called High School, Dublin. This was a big infant school."—*Irish Times*.]

Who taught me it was wrong to yell,
 And tear my master's hair pell-mell,
 Or loudly ring my coral's bell?
 The High School.

Who taught me, when I saw a cow,
 To dub it "Moo;" a dog, "Bow-wow,"
 Or lisp "Nix, nix?" It was, I vow,
 The High School.

Who, when twelve o'clock came round,
 Provided "Mellin" by the pound,
 Nurses and "prams" for the play-
 ground?
 The High School.

Who gave me monkeys on a stick,
 And barley sugar—extra thick—
 That was so *very* nice to lick?
 The High School.

Who was it (speaking soberly)
Taught us to score so frequently
At Oxford, Cambridge, T.C.D.?
The High School.

What made us *facile princeps* in
Law, Engineering, Medicine?
Undoubtedly because we've "bin"
At the High School.
AN OLD ERASMIAN.

"The Housing of the Poor."

By "ASSISI."

There are few social problems that readily admit of a complete solution. So many and varied are the interests involved that even the questions that at sight seem to be of the simplest character are found upon examination to be intricate and involving the consideration of questions of a widely different nature.

The question under present consideration is no exception to the rule. When the evils of overcrowding and unsanitary dwellings are first brought under one's notice one is tempted to ask "Why not pull down these rookeries and dens of disease and substitute well-built and sanitary dwellings?" But unfortunately the evils are not to be remedied in such a simple manner as this. It is found by experience that to adopt this course is simply to drive off the inhabitants of the demolished houses to another quarter

where as bad or worse congestion occurs. For to remedy the overcrowding existing in any given neighbourhood, the proposed new buildings obviously should only provide accommodation for a smaller number than before. The surplus will be driven to other neighbourhoods, and the same congestion will be produced elsewhere. It is also found that only a small proportion of the people displaced by the demolition of the old property will return to the new buildings. Probably the necessary regulations of a sanitary character do much to account for this. The poor prefer, apparently, the fuller liberty of the tenement house, even when joined with its discomforts.

The present state of overcrowding arises, at least in part, from a tendency which commenced in the early part of the century, and which is daily growing in strength. The centralization of labour produces the ever-increasing flow of rural population cityward. The countryman is attracted by the better wages to be obtained in towns. The glitter and bustle of city life, too, has an appreciable effect in drawing the rustic to the towns. The consequence is that the labouring population of the towns is increasing much faster than the industrial districts can spread. In our large industrial centres the number of people per unit of area is rapidly growing. The workman naturally wishes to be within easy reach of his work, and so endeavours to find a

shelter just where everyone else is striving to do the same. The natural outcome of course is the present deplorable congestion.

Again, the demolition of unsanitary property and the building blocks of model workmen's dwellings, excellent as it undoubtedly is in some respects, does not really touch a very pressing side of the question.

Whatever may be the economic reason, there is at the present time a large over supply of unskilled labour. It is calculated indeed that roughly there are two million people for whom no work can be found. The economic result of this is low rate of wages for unskilled work, and uncertainty of employment. The average wage of this class is probably about 15s. to 18s. per week. The 3s. to 5s. per week of the model dwellings or workmen's cottages would be out of the question. Large proportions of the poorer classes could only afford 1s. to 2s. per week for rent. Take into consideration the fact that owing to scarcity of employment the breadwinner may be out of employment for some six or eight weeks at a time—such a case occurs by no means seldom—and we see that nothing but the very cheapest accommodation is possible. To supply this in new buildings could only be done at a serious financial loss. Private enterprise is, therefore, practically out of the question, and to suggest that the State should supply the necessary accommodation throughout the

country is, it is needless to say, absolutely chimerical. Thus we are led to the economic question of the over supply of labour. To satisfactorily solve the Housing Question the economic conditions of labour must be improved. Until a change be made in the existing conditions of labour under which it is possible to have a waste surplus of some two million workers in the labour market, a satisfactory and complete solution of the Housing Question is not attainable. It is useless to provide permanent decent homes for people who by reason of the irregularity of their employment are unable to take advantage of them. The moral aspect of the problem must not be neglected either. It is too much to expect people who have lived amid the squalid surroundings of the average tenement house, trained by the very conditions under which they live, in habits of vice, dirt and intemperance, neglected and uneducated even in the simplest matters, made coarse, hardened and vicious almost in spite of themselves by the surroundings in which they are forced to dwell, suddenly to give up habits which in some cases have been ingrained from infancy, and to become the possessors of the opposite virtues: thrift, cleanliness, temperance and industry. It is useless to transfer such people into new dwellings provided with the various conveniences necessary for decency and health unless they use those conveniences. There is a moral

side of the problem therefore which claims consideration. That this problem has of late years attracted a good deal of attention and come into prominence is a matter for every thoughtful man who has the true interests of the country at heart to rejoice over. For in an age like the present, with its democratic tendencies, it is of the supremest importance that the industrial classes, who are rapidly rising in power and importance, should have their surroundings and homes of the purest and most elevating character. Let a people live amid dirty and degrading surroundings, with a low standard of physical comforts, the consequences must be that the people themselves deteriorate in character.

Unhappily it is far easier to enumerate the evils arising from the way in which the vast majority of the poor and labouring classes are housed than to remedy them. It is plain enough that life in a slum of any big city must involve both for adults and children an enormous amount of suffering. It is not very difficult for one who has actually been in some of the dens which serve as the "homes" of our city poor to imagine the misery entailed in living thus. Many places where perhaps twenty to thirty people are housed are not fit to keep cattle in. Houses tumbling to pieces, reeking with filth, with lobby windows smashed to atoms, with rain pouring through the roof, and damp streaming down the walls,

and the windows of the various rooms fast sealed, with a consequently fetid and pestilent atmosphere, are the shelters in which we find our fellow-creatures huddled together, frequently as many as six or eight in a single small room. Remember, too, that often these rooms are the workshops as well as the living places of the poor. In this case the unfortunate occupants spend perhaps twenty hours out of the twenty-four in this vile atmosphere. The only result that can be is, of course, ill-health and disease. Even in the better class of tenement houses, where the inhabitants pay 3s. 6d. to 5s. a week for a good room, we find sanitary accommodation of the most meagre character; the halls and lobbies it is no one's business to clean, and consequently they are seldom cleaned; for a man earning £1 to 25s. a week, 4s. is as much as can be given to rent, and one room must serve for living room and bedroom for himself, his wife, and perhaps four or five children. Is it possible that they should have good health when crowded together thus? Is decency or chastity possible where men and women, lads and young women, boys and girls, thus sleep together in a single room? Do not such conditions of living serve as a hot-bed for vice and impurity? Nor are the evil results of over-crowding and unsanitary housing confined to moral degeneration. Vitiating atmosphere and the low standard of physical comfort

can only end in the physical deterioration of the nation. Men cannot be strong and muscular and healthy when living amid such unhealthy conditions. The rural population are flocking to the towns, out of the pure air and healthy country to the stale and unwholesome city air. The physical stamina of the race is bound to be weakened to an alarming degree under such circumstances. One has only to look around in any slum to see child after child deformed, or crippled or diseased. Such conditions of child life must have the most serious results. The late Lord Shaftesbury, speaking of the influence of over-crowding, especially upon children, says, "It is totally destructive of all benefit from education. It is a benefit to the children to be absent during the day at school, but when they return to their houses, in one hour they unlearn everything they have acquired during the day." The effect of over-crowding upon the health of the people may be clearly seen from the following table, taken from the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the London County Council, and given by Dr. Edward Bonmaker in his "The Housing of the Working Classes."

Proportion of Population living more than two in a Room in Tenements of less than five rooms.		Death-rate from all causes. 1885-1892. Per 1,000	
Districts with under	15 p.c.	17.51	
" "	15-20 p.c.	19.51	
" "	20-25 p.c.	20.27	
" "	25-30 p.c.	21.76	
" "	30-35 p.c.	23.96	
" "	35-40 p.c.	25.07	

(To be Continued.)

Our Oxford Letter.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—

I must apologise for having been so "strangely silent" last term; possibly approaching "Finals" had something to do with it. However, as I shall only have the pleasure of writing under this head on one future occasion, I must make the most of my opportunity.

The Editor of "Red and Black" disclaims all connection between that journal and the "Upper Fourth Monthly"—a statement with which I willingly concur. Although my paper (for reasons given in a previous "Erasmian") perished in early youth, I think I may fairly claim for it the position of humble forerunner of subsequent High School journals, whether it be the "Erasmian" or such a powerful literary organ as "Red and Black."

It is quite within the bounds of possibility that the latter would never have appeared had there not been the incentive to compete with an already existing paper.

It is refreshing to hear that the School Football is looking up again. I remember one or two years in which the Cup Teams were distinctly in the running for the Cup, notably that occasion on which they drew with the

Blackrock in the semi-final, only to be demolished on the re-play of the tie.

I was fortunate enough to witness the annual 'Varsity Rugger match at Queen's Club last month. This will probably henceforward be considered the historic match of the 19th century, and, though it may be unpleasant to you to read, it was generally agreed that Cambridge deserved little sympathy; for, while 8 points to the good some twenty minutes before time, they allowed Oxford, who had played 14 men during most of the match, to run out winners by 16 points to 8. It is most interesting to me to note the doings of old School friends whom I may never see again, for it is nearly four years since I last set foot on "Erin's Isle." I am hoping to see a letter from Mr. C. H. Ward in some future number that we may know how he is getting on at Huddersfield. The 'Varsity Volunteers had a most successful camp for nearly three weeks at Aldershot last summer. Privates were paid at the rate of 1s. per day, most of which went in extra rations!

There was considerable excitement on one occasion when 75 per cent. of C Company were stricken down with an insidious disease, afterwards traced to a certain brand of peas. There were 360 odd men in camp, which speaks well for the patriotism of the corps, whose full strength is about 700.

ARTHUR W. R. CHEALES.

Football Cup Tie.

THE HIGH SCHOOL V. CORRIG SCHOOL.

This match in the first round of the Leinster Schools' Cup was played at Lansdowne Road on February 25th. It is a curious fact that for three seasons in succession High School and Corrig School have met in the first round. The following represented the High School:—Full, F. N. Smart; Three - quarters, J. Purser, C. H. Farran, L. M. Bayly, F. M'Connell; Halves, H. Thrift (Captain), E. Barton; Forwards, A. Stritch, W. Powell, C. C. Duggan, F. Boeddicker, H. C. Alexander, R. Scholefield, J. Duncan, H. V. Stanley.

Powell kicked off and High School immediately pressed, the forwards getting possession, while Thrift had no difficulty in getting away from the opposing halves. The Corrig three-quarters tackled soundly, but the continuous attack of Thrift, Bayly, and Farran, brought play to the Corrig line, where two splendid opportunities were lost by wild passing. Just as a score seemed inevitable, Kempston snapped a pass on his own line, and was let pass by M'Connell and after a fine run down the field scored between the posts, Cadiz converting. Although the High School played up vigorously the defence was not to be broken, and at half time the score was

Corrig School	1 Goal.
High School	Nil.

On resuming, High School immediately pressed and hard play occurred in the Corrig 25. Thrift, Farran and Bayly kept up a hot attack, but a pass from Bayly was missed by M'Connell, and a certain score was lost, there being no one in front. A free kick resulted in a shot at goal by Thrift, but the ball hit the upright and came back, and Bayly was almost in. Corrig now began to have more of the play and worked down to the High School line. Cadiz got away, but was held up by Bayly when over the line in a remarkable way. Another run was stopped by Thrift on the line. From a scrum on the line Hallowes picked up—out of the scrum as it seemed to many—and touched down. Play from this on alternated, until no side was called with the score:—

Corrig School 1 Goal, 1 try

The High School Nil.

The High School was unlucky, and it is no exaggeration to say that they had more of the game than Corrig. The latter were superior in the loose but the High School forwards packed surprisingly quick and generally got the ball. It is the first time for ten years at least that the H.S. pack have all been in the scrum when the ball was put in. In the second half the weight of the Corrig forwards told, but towards the close High School revived. No forward was specially noticeable but Powell and Stritch played well. Thrift was the best man on the ground

and did pretty much as he liked behind the scrums, Hallowes and Clarke being quite outplayed. Bayly and Farran were always conspicuous, and gave the Corrig three-quarters plenty to do. Both kicked well and ran strongly. M'Connell was the weak spot on the team. Barton and Smartt played well for their size, the former having the makings of a fine half. Kempston was the best of the Corrig backs, whose strong point was their tackling. The match was good and interesting, and it is a pity that more boys were not present. G. A. J.

My Impressions of America.

I have only been in America a very short time, and it seems rather ridiculous to write about it under those circumstances. That would be like the Englishman who came to this country, and broke his leg when he landed; he went to an hotel and was laid up for three months, and when he was better he immediately went home again, and reaching England wrote a book entitled "America as I saw it."

This is a very vast country, and one can hardly realise the size of it, but when you think that it takes an express train seven days and seven nights to travel from New York to San Francisco, it gives you a good idea of its extent.

New York city is very large ; it is the second city in the world, both in area and population. The inhabitants of the whole world could be placed in the state of Texas, and there would then be only nine people to every acre. That is hard to believe but it is true.

There are a very great number of foreigners in New York. It has been said that America is "the home of all the distressed nations of the world." There are more Jews than were ever in Jerusalem, more Germans than in Berlin, more Italians than in Rome, (we call Italians Dagoes here), and more Irishmen than in Dublin. There are newspapers printed in almost every language in the civilised world.

The mode of living here is very different from that in Ireland. The dress both of men and women is modelled after Parisian fashions, and at first looked very peculiar to me, but I have now conquered my aversion to all things American, and think that they are very much neater and attractive than those of Great Britain. The girls especially are very pretty ! It will interest the sisters of our readers to know that girls here divide their hair in the middle, and wind it round at the sides in a very strange but pretty way. My own two sisters have already caught on to it.

It seems strange that in dealing with America I should speak of what one eats. But that also is unlike anything you have on the other side. We are great believers in eating a lot of fruit,

and have it on the table in some form or other at every meal. It is very cheap and abundant. We have in addition to what grows in Ireland, quinces, grape-fruit (a combination of orange and lemon about the size of a melon), bananas, peaches (which in the season can be had for almost nothing), prickly pears, limes, Japanese plums, persimmons, watermelons, and cultivated blackberries (these are as large as plums), of course we have all other fruits also. The climate is, like everything else, peculiar. We landed on November 6th, and it was like the middle of July in Ireland. But it goes to extremes.

There are three kinds of railways at present in the City of New York — "The Elevated Railroad," "The Street Railroad," and the ordinary "Steam Railroad." The Elevated stretches for 15 miles and you can go as far as you like for 5 cents or 2½d. in your money.

Teaching here is not as good as in Ireland. Education is free, and you are supplied with books. The city of New York appropriates millions of dollars every year for education. The four principal colleges are in the order of their foundation, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia.

Football is an entirely different game from yours. There was a match on 25th November, Harvard v. Yale, and there were 35,000 spectators to watch the game. Yale won by 28 points to nil. Baseball is the national game. It

was explained to me, but I could not explain it, because I have not seen it played. But by what I was told about it it is a very exciting game.

LEWIS M. JOHNSTONE.
(Late of the Upper 3rd.)

Church of Ireland Scripture Examinations, CHRISTMAS, 1900.

RESULTS—PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES.

Greek Testament.

First Class—J. C. Duncan, 84; J. L. I. Stephenson, 83; C. C. W. Duggan, 77; H. Thrift, 74; G. C. Duggan, 72; M. A. C. Wilkins, 71.

Second Class—E. A. Y. Mason, 68; J. Purser, 68.

Third Class—F. M'Connell, 50.

Pass Certificates—W. D. Appleyard, 44; P. Mandeville, 37; H. V. Stanley, 37; F. Stevenson, 35.

Scripture.

SENIOR GRADE.

Second Class—M. R. Richardson, 63.

Pass Certificates—H. V. White, 57½; R. S. Broadbent, 56; J. H. F. Leland, 49½.

MIDDLE GRADE.

First Class—P. Campling, 74.

Second Class—G. A. Mason, 67½; H. W. White, 64½; R. H. M. Bury, 61½.

Pass Certificates—G. C. Duggan, 53½; W. J. Weir, 50½; R. E. Freeth, 45½; A. W. R. Norton, 44; W. M.

O'Grady, 40½; P. A. Walker, 39½; G. A. M. Fitzpatrick, 35½; G. H. Booth, 33½; F. N. Smartt, 31.

JUNIOR GRADE.

First Class—E. G. M. Norton, 94; A. C. Richardson, 83½; A. R. M. Rose, 81; W. T. Freeman, 79.

Second Class—E. H. Wilkins, 67.

Pass Certificates—A. C. Parker, 57; E. E. Holden, 56½; J. R. Humphreys, 52½; C. G. Powell, 48; W. T. Beckerson, 47½; J. B. Butler, 47; G. Mullins, 45½; G. J. Crozier, 45; J. G. S. Ellis, 44; H. E. Richardson, 44; H. R. Ardill, 41½; A. V. Mills, 41½; R. J. Ogden, 41½; R. H. Fleming, 41; F. J. Weir, 41; J. H. Barbor, 40½; R. L. Valentine, 40; W. F. Synnott, 39½; R. H. Bryan, 39; J. Chamney, 38½; W. A. Young, 38½; S. R. V. Guthrie, 37½; C. W. F. Blackham, 37; R. E. Beckerson, 36½; J. S. Smylie, 36½; W. M. Stephenson, 36½; G. V. Butler, 35½; G. G. Moriarty, 35½; E. J. A. Guthrie, 33; P. H. Appleyard, 31½; C. W. Smartt, 31.

Trinity College Results.

HILARY, 1901.

HONORS.

SENIOR SOPHISTERS.

Ethics—First Rank, Shortt, Charles (2nd).

History and Political Science—First Rank, Shortt, Charles (1st).

JUNIOR SOPHISTERS.

Classics — First Rank, Spiro, Abraham (Sch.) (1st). Second Rank, Exham, H. W. (2nd).

Modern Literature — First Rank, Stronge, C. C. (1st).

SENIOR FRESHMEN.

Classics—First Rank, White, Newport B. (Siz.), (2nd).

JUNIOR FRESHMEN.

Classics—Second Rank, Hillas, H. G. (1st).

MICHAELMAS, 1900.

SENIOR FRESHMEN.

Classical Composition Prize — MacDonnell, M. S. (2nd).

German Composition Prize—Stronge, C. C.

CATECHETICAL PREMIUMS.

LECTURES.

JUNIOR SOPHISTERS.

Shortt, Charles (1st), Healy, T. L. (6th), Campbell, F. E. (9th).

TERM.

JUNIOR FRESHMAN.

Halpin, G. (2nd).

HILARY, 1901.

CATECHETICAL PREMIUMS.

SENIOR FRESHMEN.

Brew, A. W., and White, N. B. (6th).

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S PRIZES.

Latin Verse—Longworth, F. A. (Sch.) Univ. Stud., B.A.

English Prose—Fitzpatrick, J. A. O. (Sch.), (2nd).

 Notices.

The present is the concluding number of the Second Volume. Every reader should receive with this the Index and Front Page with the School Arms.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of "The Droghedean," "Wesley College Quarterly," "The Grammar School Magazine" (Aberdeen).

The annual subscription to the "Erasmian" is 1/-, post free, 1/3. All subscriptions and donations, which are urgently needed, should be forwarded at once to the Hon. Treasurer at the School.

The next number, the first of Vol. III. of the "Erasmian," will be published in May. All contributions should be forwarded to the Editor before the end of the first week of May. Boys both present and past are invited to contribute.

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