

From Schools the World Around

This week brought another of the foreign letters, this time from Vienna, Austria. As in the case of the other letters, it was written in English by the boy himself. Abroad, it seems, the "gymnasiums" are preparatory for the work in the universities and fit the student for the higher branches of literature and science. They are classical schools, as distinguished from technical schools.

This paper has not been edited in any way by the editor.

THE vienna school life, which I intend to describe, is characterized by the fact that there are almost only schools to which the pupils go every day, while they live at home. Every child in Austria is, as we say, "schulpflichtig" from his 6th to his 17th year. Most children, especially those that belong to better families, having frequently four or five classes of the Normal-school, (every child must frequent this school) are received at a "Mittelschule." For that purpose the children have to pass an examination, which generally is quite easy.

"Mittelschule" are called the gymnasium and the "Realschule." In the latter one the main thing is the instruction in French and English language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; also there is taught Geography and History. In gymnasium they learn first of all Latin and Greek, then Geography, History, Mathematics, Physics and a little natural history. The gymnasium

intends to prepare the pupils for the studies of the University. The gymnasium contains eight, the "Realschule" seven classes, which are counted beginning by one.

The pupils who frequent the "Mittelschule" have to pay 20 to 25 florins per half-year and to buy their books themselves. Only the poor pupils must not pay and buy the books, and if they are diligent and have nice behavior, they also receive a stipendium of some florins every year. At the end of the half-year they receive certificates. If the certificate at the summer half-year is good, the pupil is allowed to frequent next following class. We are examined several times in each half year, but we don't know on which days. Therefore one must always be prepared, also following the old Latin proverb: "Non scholae, sed vitae discimus." (We learn not for school, but for life.) The school year lasts from the 19th of September to the beginning of July. Then there are holidays at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, at the name and birthdays of the Emperor and Empress, and also all Catholic holidays are observed.

The pupils can, if they like, also learn English, French, singing and drawing. Also the pupils can have gymnastic exercises and, what we call "Jugendspiele" in the open air. The school is led by the Director and the boys are taught by Professors. At the end of the eighth year the pupils pass a final examination, called "Maturitaetspruefung." If they don't fail, they are allowed to frequent the University and to become Doctor and what they like and can.

—Berti G. Naser,
Vienna, Austria.

The Little "Dog" Boy

The Gentle, Precocious Landseer Distressed When a Collie Changed His Expression From a Scowl to a Smile.

"WHERE is my little dog boy?" Fusell, the keeper at the Royal Academy, used to ask, as he entered the room where the students were working, at the time when Sir Edwin Landseer, then but twelve years old, was one of them. Already the fair, curly-headed lad, with the gentle and graceful manners, the pleasant eyes and the childish face, had painted that "Portrait of Brutus"—a white bulldog—which the next year was exhibited and admired among the works of famous artists and full-fledged academicians.

Landseer was indeed precocious in his art; he had sketched, with force and spirit, ever since he was of an age when his father, John Landseer, used to have to lift him over the stiles into the fields where his chosen subjects were gamboling or grazing. A lady whose family recollections have recently been privately circulated, relates how her English mother once encountered the little prodigy at work.

She had gone to take a stroll on Hampstead Heath, carrying a book and accompanied by a favorite dog, a fine collie devoted to his mistress, but not very cordial in his feelings toward other people. After a time she sat down under a tree and began to read, while the dog lay beside her with his head against her knee. She became absorbed in her book, and scarcely noticed that soon the collie growled slightly. Presently the growl was repeated, but still she did not look up. A third time she heard the low, menacing rumble, and at length lifted her eyes to see what was amiss. Before her, not far away, a little fellow, not more than eight or nine years old, was seated on a stone gazing intently toward the dog, whose lips were drawn back angrily over glistening teeth. "He won't bite, little boy," she said, reassuringly, and laid her hand soothingly upon the head of her pet, who shifted

his position and assumed a more amiable expression under her touch; but the little boy was by no means grateful.

"Oh," he cried, distressfully, "you've spoiled his growl!" He had been sketching the dog growling, and presently showed her his half-finished work, to her amazement and admiration. By that time the dog had made friends with him, and the growl was hopelessly lost; but the child proceeded to draw him "smiling," as he called it—and a collie does smile, as every owner of one knows—and the second sketch completed, he told the lady his name before they parted. She never saw him again, but she was proud in after years to tell of the half-hour she once spent with Edwin Landseer.—Youth's Companion.

SOME WORDS FREQUENTLY MISPRONOUNCED.

Sinew—ew like you. Re-al-ly—three syllables. Nothing—sound the g. Little—sound the t's. Depth—sound the th. History—three syllables. Ru-in—two syllables. Feb-ru-ary—sound the first r. Arithmetic—a-rith. Recess—accented on last syllable. Juvenile—short i. Italian—first i is short. Idea—accented on second syllable. Oasis—first syllable accented. Elm—one syllable. Salmon—sam un—accented on first syllable. Finance—last syllable accented. Reptile—short l. Avenue—(new). Subtle—(sut tl).—Midland Schools.

A NOVELTY FOR SPORTSMEN.

A novel idea for sportsmen seems to be of Portuguese origin. An electric lamp is placed on the collar of the hunting dog, and this frightens foxes and badgers from their burrows when the dog enters.

of grateful praise. Then there are the fairy tales of Andersen, Andrew Lang's "Blue Book" and Hawthorne's "Wonder Book," which Mr. Stockton says is the work of a true magician, "who knew how to make real things as surprising and interesting to the youthful mind as any ordinary wizard at work with his fancies." He also says that it would be wicked to prevent any child from becoming acquainted with the dormouse and the fading grin of the Cheshire Cat in "Alice in Wonderland," and that "Uncle Remus" takes his place next, "not merely because we choose him, but because he is bound to be there by right." As to the "Arabian Nights," Mr. Stockton is inclined to let the whole thousand and one of them stand on their own merits, and adds with the true Stockton touch—"and then we shall see what will happen next."

He also includes "Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates," "Little Women," "The Story of a Bad Boy," "Peterkin Papers," "Tales from Shakspeare," by Charles and Mary Lamb, which he says prepare young readers to appreciate Shakspeare better in later years.

Mr. Stockton acknowledges that the list is rather old-fashioned, but that nevertheless it is one which he would make out for a family of young people for whom he had a real affection and regard.

Tudor Jenks, author of "Galopoff," says something with which I fully agree and that is that all "tinkered classics and mutilated plays and poems simply blunt the appetite for the complete works later on."

I am especially interested in this matter of your reading, for I have had several opportunities to see just what your favorite books are. Often it has been disappointing to me to see the lightweight stuff which holds first place in your minds, when there is better reading just as interesting, just as exciting and in many cases perfectly true, if you would only take it.

In this matter of reading you are apt, if not directed by wiser older people, to absorb too much indigestible stuff and so have a sort of mental dyspepsia, or choose books which give no nourishment to your mind during the very years when most needed. Just as you eat more now and need the most nourishing food for your body, so you should give your mind now the best written things and so form a healthy taste in reading.

I wish that every Minneapolis Junior who has a sincere desire to make the most of himself would ask Mrs. Ellison at the library, every time he takes a book out, if she thinks it is a good one. I worked with her last year over the list of five hundred books published last May in the Junior, and I know from that experience that her judgment is of the best, and that at the same time, her choice of books will give you just as "jolly" ones as you could ask.

THE EDITOR.

CURIOUS LITTLE TAILORS.

Most curious are the sewing or tailor birds of India—little yellow things not much larger than one's thumb. To escape falling a prey to snakes and monkeys, the tailor bird picks up a dead leaf and flies up into a tree, and with a fiber for a thread and its bill for a needle, sews the leaf to a green one hanging from the tree; the sides are sewed up, an opening to the nest thus formed being left at the top. That a nest is swinging in the tree no snake or monkey or even man would suspect.

SIMILARITY IN LANGUAGES.

An Ottawa correspondent writes that intelligence has been received from the Yukon of a strange discovery that the language of the Nulato Indians who live within the Arctic circle and that of the Apaches of New Mexico and Arizona are the same. The facts have come to light through the return to Dawson City of Father John Rene, prefect apostolic of the Roman Catholic church in Alaska, from a journey to the fathers working among the aboriginal tribes of the lower Yukon.



THE United States supreme court has ordered a hearing on the petition of the state of Minnesota to file suit against the Northern Securities company. Attorney General Douglas does not consider this a necessarily adverse action, even though it is not according to the usual action. He says that the supreme court has made similar rulings during the past year and seems to show a disposition to break away from precedents.

One development of the case is that both President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox are expressing themselves as in favor of government control of railroads in this country. In his letter introducing the Minnesota representatives to Mr. Knox, the president said that he was taking the "liveliest interest" in the case, and rumors show that he is discussing the matter with leading men in all walks of life. Sentiment in the east has changed somewhat from that displayed at first. The belief was then that the state could do nothing, that the combination had been too carefully planned; at present these same people are willing to admit that so far the advantage seems to be on the side of the state.

Henry of Prussia, the admiral prince of the Hohenzollerns, and brother to Emperor William, is to be here for the christening of the emperor's yacht by Miss Roosevelt. He is a personal representative of the kaiser, and it is said that if his visit turns out as satisfactorily as it promises at present, the kaiser himself will visit America later. This is rather a "fish story" to those who think twice, for European rulers are not given to going so far away from home. February 26 is about the date the launching will take place.

The canal bill is now before the senate. A recent poll shows that a small majority wish to investigate the Panama route before the Nicaragua route is definitely selected. One member of the senate, Mr. Teller of Colorado, is opposed to any canal.

The very latest reports are that wholly new plans will be submitted to the senate, offering a route only thirty miles long. This is called the Mandigo route and would go from the Gulf of San Blas to the Pacific ocean behind the Pearl Islands. This would mean a tunnel of seven miles through a spur of the Andes and a trolley appliance would tow the ships through it. General Serrell, who is at the head of the project, was engineer of the Panama route and has acted as engineer also for the government.

Two of the three names of the men selected to act as representatives of the United States at the coronation next June are unexpected. Whitelaw Reid heads the list and is the only one whose appointment had been foreshadowed in any way. His title is "special ambassador." The representative of the army is General James H. Wilson of Delaware, and of the navy, Captain Charles E. Clark, commander of the battleship Oregon, who made the record run with her from the Pacific ocean and ar-

rived in time to play a most important part in the battle of Santiago.

Oscar S. Straus, former United States minister to Turkey, has been appointed as permanent member of the committee of arbitration at The Hague. This is to fill the vacancy caused by the death of ex-President Harrison.

Governor Van Sant has issued a proclamation naming Wednesday, January 23, as a day for special exercises in the schools, in memory of our late president. He especially urges that contributions to the McKinley Memorial fund be made on that day. Charles S. Cairns of Minneapolis is the local representative appointed to receive these contributions.

January 9 was Liberty Bell day at the Charleston exposition. The noted bell was received with great ceremony, including a salute of thirteen guns. Schools were closed throughout the city and also the stores, everybody gathering along the route of the procession. "America" was sung by 2,000 school children.

William Fife has been selected by Sir Thomas Lipton to build his next cup challenger, Shamrock III. Mr. Fife was the builder of Shamrock I, and as Mr. Watson, builder of Shamrock II, has offered to turn over all his designs of that yacht, Mr. Fife starts with a distinct advantage over his first efforts. The yacht is to be ready early in the spring of 1903.

Peter Lee, who has been in the employ of the Stevens family of Castle Point, Hoboken, N. J., upward of a hundred years, is dying at Castle Point. The date of his birth is somewhat uncertain, but it probably was in 1795 or 1796. He was born in Hoboken of slave parents, the property of Colonel John Stevens. He became free in the course of years, but only once was he separated from the Stevens family. He declares he remembers the general mourning for the death of George Washington, in December, 1799.

Smallpox has gained an alarming hold upon London, and there are fears that the city may be under general quarantine at coronation time, unless something can be done to check the disease. Crews of vessels and passengers as well, are being vaccinated before they leave English ports.

The astronomer at the Nice observatory says that on January 12, after moonset, the brilliancy of Venus was such that shadows were cast upon the walls. This is the first time this phenomenon has been observed. People who have lived in the far south, on the southern border line of Texas, say that at times the stars have cast shadows and that at full moon it is easy to read a newspaper.

A most remarkable change seems to have taken place in

the dowager empress during her exile from Peking. She appears to be as anxious now to please the powers as she was willing to defy them before. She not only has granted audiences to the foreign diplomats, but all of her edicts charge her people to be loyal to the foreigners; declare that the throne loves and respects the missionaries and commands the officials to instruct the people to respect the church and to put away their suspicions of Christians. She has also ordered the suppression of all anti-missionary societies.

Medical authorities at Manila say that a large portion of the breaking down among American residents in the Philippines is due to homesickness brought on in many cases because of the inability to get news from America every day. Enough money has already been subscribed in Manila to pay the cable tolls of seventy words a day for three months, and it is hoped that they may raise enough to make it one hundred words a day, and further, that the Philippine commission will appropriate money for a regular service the year around.

The authorities at Vancouver, B. C., have about given up the British warship Condor. They feel sure from her being so long overdue, that she went down between Victoria and the Hawaiian islands during the recent typhoon. This is the same Condor of which Lord Charles Beresford was in command at the bombardment of Alexandria and with which he won the well known commendation of "Well done, Condor."

In the recent rent collections on the Skibo estate in Scotland, Andrew Carnegie remitted from 20 to 25 per cent of the amounts due.

Elbridge S. Brooks, the author, is dead at Somerville, Mass., after an illness of several months. Mr. Brooks was the author of nearly seventy books, chiefly for boys, among them being "The Century Book of Famous Americans," "Historic Boys," "Historic Girls" and "Chivalric Days."

The richest man in Germany is Herr Krupp, the great gun-maker. According to the income tax returns he has an income of between twenty and twenty-one million marks a year. No one approaches him in wealth.

Emigration from Hamburg and Bremen in 1901 was almost double that of 1900, and nine-tenths of the emigrants came to the United States.

It is said that the death of the pope may be expected any day, as he is just alive. He suffers no pain and simply dozes the hours away without comprehension of what is going on around him.