## THE OLD READING CLASS.

[Will Carleton in Harper's Magazine.]

I cannot tell you, Genevieve, how oft it comes
to me—
That rather young old reading class in District Number Three,
That row of elocutionists who stood so straight in line
And charged at standard literature with amiable design.
We did not spare the energy in which our words were clad;
We gave the meaning of the text by all the light we had;
But still I fear the ones who wrote the lines we read so free
Would scarce have recognized their work in District Number Three.

Outside the snow was smooth and clean—the winter's thick-laid dust;
The storm it made the windows speak at every sudden gust;
Bright sleigh-bells threw us pleasant words when travelers would pass;
The maple trees along the road stood shivering in their class;
Beyond, the white-browed cottages were nestling cold and numb,
And far away the mighty world seemed beckoning us to come—
The wondrous world, of which we conned what had been and might be,
In that old-fashioned reading class of District Number Three.

We took a hand at history—its altars, spires and flames—
And uniformly mispronounced the most important names;
We wandered through biography, and gave our fancy play,
And with some subjects fell in love—"good only for one day;"
In romance and philosophy we settled many a point,
And made what poems we assailed to creak at every joint;
And many authors that we love, you with me will agree,
Were first time introduced to us in District Number Three.

You recollect Susannah Smith, the teacher's sore distress,
Who never stopped at any pause—a sort of day express?
And timid young Sylvester Jones, of inconsistent sight,
Who stumbled on the easy words and read the hard ones right?
And Jennie Green, whose doleful voice was always clothed in black?
And Samuel Hicks, whose tones induced the plastering all to crack?
And Andrew Tubbs, whose various mouths were quite a show to see?
Alas! we cannot find them now in District Number Three.

And Jasper Jenckes, whose tears would flow at each pathetic word
(He's in the prize-fight business now, and hits them hard, I've heard);
And Benny Bayne, whose every tone he murmured as in fear—
(His tongue is not so timid now; he is an auctioneer);
And Lanty Wood, whose voice was just endeavoring hard to change,
And leaped from hoarse to fiercely shrill with most surprising range;
Also his sister Mary Jane, so full of prudish glee,
Alas! they're both in higher schools than District Number Three.

So back these various voices come, though long the years have grown,
And sound uncommonly distinct through memory's telephone;
And some are full of melody, and bring a sense of cheer,
And some can smite the rock of time, and summon forth a tear;
But one sweet voice comes back to me, whenever sad I grieve,
And sings a song, and that is yours, O peerless Genevieve!
It brightens up the olden times, and throws a smile at me—
A silver star amid the clouds of District Number Three.

### MADAME MOJESKA'S POEM.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

"The madame is a poetess as well as an actress, is she not, count?" asked the reporter.

"If you mean, by that, the verses credited to her in The Denver Tribune some time ago, no. She never wrote them, and has never written any poetry in English. She wrote a number of poems in her native language once, which were collected into a volume and were several years ago translated into English—very badly translated—I ought to say murdered in English by Oscar Wilde. She has written some magazine articles in English, but no poetry. The poem credited to her in The Denver Tribune was without her knowledge.

"Gene Field put it in, and I think it is not original, but has been published before. I have an idea that it was the work of some of the older English poets, and Field published it with her name to try his brother editors. A great many copied it and gave the madame credit for being a poetess. We never knew of the publication until we were in Manitou, and there she wrote to Mr. Field asking him to deny it, but he did not, and we had no other opportunity to make a denial until we reached Chicago."

### LOST HIS WAGER.

New York Sun.

A railroad conductor bet Gorman, of Quincy, Ill., that he could not pick up 100 eggs laid on the ground a yard apart inside of thirty-five minutes. The eggs were to be picked up and deposited in a basket, one at a time, and the basket was to remain stationary at the spot where the first egg was placed. Gorman thought he had an easy walk over; but the railroad man placed the eggs in a straight line along side of the depot and the basket at one end, so that Gorman had to run up and down the line with each egg separately. At the end of twenty minutes he had picked up only twenty-five of the eggs, and had to give up the contest. A local mathematician figured up that it would take about six miles of travel to pick up the 100 eggs.

### To Capture Criminals.

[Detroit Free Press.]

Give the commercial travelers of this country printed descriptions of criminals at large, with the assurance of a liberal reward for capture, and no rascal could make a journey of 100 miles by rail.

## NATIONAL COSTUMES PASSING AWAY.

THE PICTURESQUE AND STRIKING IS BEING SUCCEEDED BY THE PRODUCT OF THE STEAM-DRIVEN LOOM.

Foreign Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

When the second empire began—and that seems but yesterday—there were costumes everywhere and the wearers were proud of them. In Paris itself the different classes dressed in marked contrast one with the other. The grisette and shop girl wore a plain linen cap without ribbons, a gray or brown dress of inexpensive material, made short, and changing little with the changing fashions. This cheap outer dress permitted her to be faultlessly neat in cap, collar, cuffs and footgear. No one was more attractive than she; certainly not the fine lady of that day, with the ridiculous pile of false hair and the balloon petticoat. At that date nothing would have induced the grisette or the shop-woman to wear a hat or bonnet; those were only for fine ladies or women of lost character, and to put on such a thing would be to lose caste with honest working people. The matron at the head of an establishment wore ribbons in her cap, the working girl plain linen. Long, however, before the empire ended the grisette had disappeared. In her place there was a creature in a hat, a dress cut more or less in the fashion, and these had cost so much there was too little left for clean linen. The charm had gone in part, but the Parisienne, the cleverest woman in the world, still made the best of a bad bargain.

In most European countries the change has been fatal. The square-faced Swiss girl in her cantonal hat, her laced bodice, her white skirt and dangling silver was picturesque; the sun-burned maiden of the Tyrol, striking and attractive in her mountain dress and brigand-like pointed hat. One lost sight of the thick ankles, the course, red hands and heavy figure in the effect of the costume.

In Italy, especially in the central portion, each village had its dress, often differing widely from that worn a few miles away. There was a sandal of a single thickness of leather and bound with thongs; the skirt and bodice, of bright but simple dye, falling in plastic folds; the white under-waist; the folded linen head-dress; the embroidered apron of contrasting color, and the ear-rings and necklace for holidays. In these passibly pretty girls looked charming, and even the course peasant woman not unattractive. In their Manchester prints or draggle-tail gowns with their great feet thrust into brogans, that are absolutely without charm, even in the flower of their youth, by middle age they are hideous.

In a few countries, most of them far from the centre of Europe, the national dress still lingers. Still the charming Spaniard clings to her graceful, floating head-dress; but coquetry and a desire to please, which seems absolutely wanting in the average Italian, is the native gift of the women of the Iberian peninsula, and in no part of the world do they deserve, or receive, more romantic devotion. In Madrid, much the least national of her cities, the bonnet is seen, elsewhere seldom.

The costumes of France, Belgium and Holland are gone. No more does the prim Frieslander wear her strange cap with the golden plates beneath; but, far in the north, in the remoter parts of Norway, though the dress be awkward, a bit of color and a certain quaintness still may be seen. Ivan Ivanovitch, the Moujik, and his family still put on Russian garb, but it is born too far north for grace or beauty.

In Turkey there lingers a touch of Oriental grace in garments. The Mohammedan man has largely lost his flowing robes, and is little different from the man of central Europe, except in the red cap, which he never removes, but in the provinces it is different. Still is

"The wild Albanian kirtled to the knee
With shawl-girt head and ornamental gun,
And gold-embroidered garments, fair to see,"

Still do the women wear their eastern garb; still the Grecian maidens weave their gold and silver doweries amidst their midnight tresses; but "Italia! oh, Italia!" when the Manchester-print gown, the machine-born brogue and the ready-made clothes-man invaded your shores they dealt a blow at your "gift of beauty" such as Goth and Hun and Tartar dealt of old to the once boundless heritage of the Cæsars. The land is lovely still; the sky is blue, art still lives; in the south the men are often picturesque, but the women, who should be as the soul of all this beauty of nature, are no longer fair to look upon; have even lost the ordinary instinct or desire to please.

### His Prominence Accounted For.

[New York Letter.]

This is not because Gen. Sickles is so distinguished, but rather from the manner of his entrance at the opera. You probably know that Gen. Sickles has but one leg, and has been unable to wear an artificial one, so that he is naturally obliged to walk on crutches. After the house is comfortably seated and the opera is going smoothly along, just as the prima donna reaches her most florid passage, or the tenor touches his high C, you hear a dull thud down the main aisle of the opera house, and, looking around, you see a rather fine-looking man on crutches swinging himself into his seat. You naturally ask "Who is that?" and you soon get your answer that it is Gen. Sickles.

### The Power of an Unshackled Press.

[Roodhouse (Ill.) Eye.]

The mud-hole in the north part of the city, to which The Eye called attention a day or so ago, has been fixed.


Colored undertakers can give reliable statistics about the black-bury crop.

NOT a costly medicine. 25 doses Piso's Cure for Consumption for 25 cents.

The capote of medium size is the bonnet for the near future.

Young or middle-aged men suffering from nervous debility, loss of memory, premature old age, as the result of bad habits, should send three stamps for Part VII of Dime Series pamphlets. Address WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Buffalo, N. Y.

De Brazza, the explorer, is not dead as reported.

No sensible man prefers wealth to health. Some few have both; very many haven't either. Well, you may have first choice. Which will you take? "Health." Very well, what's your ailment? "A little of everything." What's the cause? "Blood out of order, kidneys weak, digestion bad, heart's action irregular." Yes, and every disease can be traced to these same sources. Just take a few bottles of Brown's Iron Bitters; it will remove the causes of disease and restore you to robust health. Ask your druggist and use Brown's Iron Bitters.

"ROUGH ON CORNS." 15c. Ask for it. Complete cure, hard or soft corns, warts, bunions.

Everybody that has tried Ammen's Cough Syrup continues its use; besides they tell their neighbors of it. We were in a drug store the other day when a customer asked for a bottle of Ammen's Cough Syrup, saying: "I do not know anything about it myself, but my neighbor advised me to buy it for my cold, and tells me that the use of three bottles has entirely cured his cough of two years standing. In fact, he says 'It is the best medicine in the world for coughs, colds and lung complaints,' and that a one-dollar bottle did him more good than all the prescriptions he had from the doctors."

We call attention to the advertisement of the Chicago Magnetic Shield Company in another column.

"Brown's Bronchial Troches" are excellent for the relief of Hoarseness or Sore Throat. They are exceedingly effective.—*Christian World, London, Eng.*

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No medicine has ever been known so effectual in the cure of all those diseases, arising from an impure condition of the blood as SCOVILL'S SARSAPARILLA, OR BLOOD AND LIVER SYRUP, for the cure of Scrofula, White Swellings, Rheumatism, Pimples, Blotches, Eruptions, Venereal Sores and Diseases, Consumption, Groitre, Boils, Cancers, and all kindred diseases. No better means of securing a beautiful complexion can be obtained than by using SCOVILL'S BLOOD AND LIVER SYRUP, which cleanses the blood and gives beauty to the skin.

It is only making much of our minutes that we can make much of our days.

Bad temper often proceeds from those painful disorders to which women are subject. In female complaints Dr. R. V. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" is a certain cure. By all druggists.

A waste of money—to put a ten-dollar hat on a dime's worth of brains.

"Dr. Pierce's Magnetic Elastic Truss" is advertised in another column of this paper. This establishment is well known on the Pacific Coast as reliable and square in all its dealings. Their goods have gained an enviable reputation.

"BUCHU-PAIBA." Quick, complete cure, all annoying kidney and urinary diseases. $1.

Mr. G. A. Miller, Clerk of Circuit Court, Westminster, Md., says: "I used Brown's Iron Bitters and found it a good tonic and appetizer."

For a cough or a cold there is no remedy equal to Ammen's Cough Syrup.

The richer a man makes his food, the poorer he makes his appetite.

If you feel dull, drowsy, debilitated, have sallow color of skin, or yellowish-brown spots on face or body, frequent headache or dizziness, bad taste in mouth, internal heat or chills alternated with hot flushes, low spirits and gloomy forebodings, irregular appetite, and tongue coated, you are suffering from "torpid liver," or "biliousness." In many cases of "liver complaint" only part of these symptoms are experienced. As a remedy for all such cases Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" has no equal, as it effects perfect and radical cures. At all drug stores.

Some women are things of beauty, but a jaw forever.

Dr. I. F. Mundy, Owenton, Ky., says: "I found Brown's Iron Bitters one of the best tonics and have prescribed it frequently."

"ROUGH ON COUGHS." 15c, 25c, 50c, at Druggists. Complete cure Coughs, Hoarseness, Sore Throat.

Congressman Chas. A. Sumner says: "Caloric Vita Oil is a good thing. I feel like proclaiming its merits from the house-tops."

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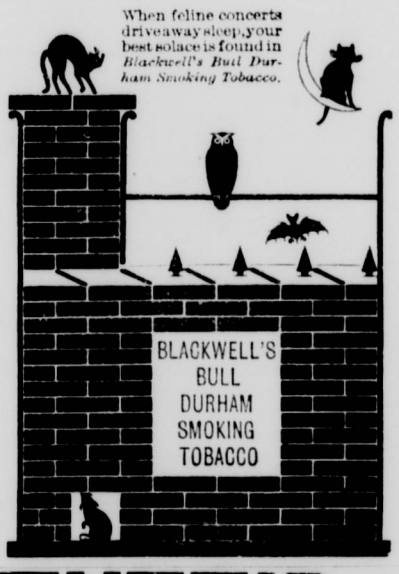


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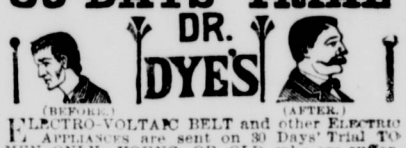


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