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To a Dying Butterfly.

( Crushed by my heel one peaceful summer's eve.)

Wee, quivering, dying butterfly,
How pitifully weak thy struggles seem
As I above thee stand, and watch thee lie
Low in the dust, and know how soon thou’lt die
And pass away like some forgotten dream.

O cease thy struggles vain, poor helpless thing,
Thou dost but raise a cloud of dust, which shrouds
Thee o'er, and ne'er again will daylight bring
Ecstatic joy to thee as thou dost wing
Thy way among wild nature's noisy crowds.

For an inevitable fate hath now
Decreed thy time has come, and though 'tis hard
To weakly fall, yet it will not allow
Thee to arise, and thou at last must bow
To this omnipotent eternal lord.
Ah! sad indeed it is to think that there
Is not in the whole universe, which now
Envelopes thee around, enough of air
To feed thy parchèd, thirsting lungs, and spare
Awhile the anguish of this cruel hour.

But thou must die; and though I cannot stay
Thy swiftly fleeting life, yet I will raise
Thee up from off thy dusty bed and lay
Thee in my hand and let thee there breathe 'way
The saddest of thy many fleeting days.

I feel akin to thee, thou songless bird,
For I am doomed like thee to flutter through
A fleeting breath and leave the thoughts unheard
That beat within my breast, because the word
To breathe them forth transcends my little view.

Poor thing! was thy brief life a joy to thee,
And did that heart, so wildly throbbing now,
Once beat with an ambrosial joy to see
The world so fair, and know that thou wast free
To roam 'neath heaven's high imperial brow?

Did ere the knowledge of a love divine
Thrill through thy heart as thou didst see the morn,
Like to a blushing nymph kissed by the wind
Of heaven, rise from her couch of darkness blind
And paint with her own blushes the newborn?

But ah! I see that thou art drawing near
To thy last breath; the frantic beats of thy
Frail wings tell me too plainly that the drear
And heartless earth too soon will be thy bier,
While round thee folds of darkest midnight lie.

Yes, thou hast ceased to be; awhile ago
Thou lay a trembling being, thrilling o'er
With throbbing life. Now death has laid thee low,
And to thy resting-place now thou must go
And rise again from it—ah, nevermore!
But I will breathe a little longer here
And then beside thee in the earth will lay
My head, and not an eye will weep a tear
Or heart beat softer, as my own does here,
As from thy new-made grave I turn away.

HENRY NICHOLAS.

William E. Gladstone, Prior to His Becoming a Member of Parliament.

To say that William E. Gladstone is the greatest English statesman who has appeared during the reign of Queen Victoria, seems, as Justin McCarthy says, a simple statement of fact and not the introduction of a subject for criticism. He was more or less intimately associated with all the great forward movements in England for more than half a century, and in studying his life we will learn much of nineteenth century history.

If we look at the life of Gladstone as a whole we see or seem to see many glaring inconsistencies, but this may be said with equal truth of any really great statesman, "for the essence of statesmanship consists in the recognition of imminent tendencies and actual facts. Nobody can possibly be called a statesman who starts in life with a pack of political nostrums which he proposes to apply inveterately to the cure of every constitutional malady in the State. A mind like that of Mr. Gladstone is inexorably compelled to go on studying the changing condition of things, and is absolutely prohibited from applying remorselessly the remedies of day before yesterday to the troubles of to-day." As John Bright said many years ago, Gladstone was "always struggling towards the light."

William Ewart Gladstone was born on the 29th of December, 1809, in Rodney street, Liverpool. But he was descended from an old Scotch family, which generations ago bore the name of Gledstane. The family abode was in Lanarkshire. Mr. George W. E. Russell has given us the following explanation of the name: "The derivation of the name is obvious
enough to any one who has seen the spot. *Gled* is a hawk, and that fierce and beautiful bird would have found its natural home among the *stanes*, or rocks of the craggy moorlands which surround the fortalice of the Gledstanes.” “As far back as 1296,” Mr. Russell tells us, “Herbert De Gledestane figures in the Ragman Roll as one of the lairds who swore fealty to Edward I.”

It was by something of an accident that John Gladstone, while on a business trip to Liverpool, met and favorably impressed one of the leading corn merchants of the city, and was by him advised to settle there. He was not long in becoming one of the merchant princes of the city, and he soon became a member of Parliament and a baronet. He, of pure Lowland Scotch blood, married a Highland Scotch woman. This union was blessed with six children, and the third son was the illustrious subject of this sketch. Both Sir John Gladstone (the father of William E.) and his second son, Robertson, were men of singular energy and force of character, and of genuine ability. It was common belief in Liverpool that Robertson Gladstone assisted his brother William in the preparation of his budgets when the latter was again and again Chancellor of the Exchequer. We may get some idea of the ability of Robertson Gladstone from the following remark of Justin McCarthy: “I have often thought that Nature decided to make a decided advance in the family history by the creation of Robertson Gladstone, and not yet quite satisfied with her work, she tried again and gave William Ewart Gladstone to the world.”

It is said that nothing was ever taken for granted between Sir John Gladstone and his sons, but that he kept alive a constant succession of arguments on some question or other. Every one was called upon to put forth his best efforts to defend his position or to break down the argument of his opponent. Yet this was all carried on in the best of humor and was a source of real enjoyment. This may help us to account for the peculiar aptness of William E. Gladstone for debate.
William was first sent to school at the vicarage of Seaforth, in the neighborhood of Liverpool. Here he had as a schoolmate the late Dean Stanley. He only remained at Seaforth a short while. At the age of eleven he was sent to Eton.

It would be hard for us to realize the glamour and the fascination Eton exercises over the mind of one who has any appreciation of the picturesque, the venerable, and the poetic. Standing as it does under the very shadow of Windsor Castle and surrounded by one of the most beautiful landscapes in all England, it is easily one of the most charming spots in the entire island. "There is a witchery in the river, the woods and the old historic castle." We may be sure such scenes would indelibly impress themselves on the mind of a boy like Gladstone; indeed, all through his life the mention of Eton and its associations was sufficient to fire him with enthusiasm. He was a close and hard student. Greek and Latin seemed to be his favorite branches, and he came to have a magnificent appreciation of the spirit of the leading Greek and Latin writers. He persisted while at Eton in being unostentatiously pious and religious. He never joined in or countenanced any mockery or levity about things which he had been taught to regard as sacred. Yet there was nothing of the "prig" about him and he commanded the respect of the most light-minded by his force of character.

Gladstone's dearest friend while at Eton was Arthur Hallam, to whose gifts and virtues Lord Tennyson inscribed his "In Memoriam." Among his school-mates there we also find the names of Frederick Tennyson, brother of the great poet, and who was himself a poet; Alexander Kinglake, James Bruce, Charles Canning, and other distinguished men.

As a member of the "Eton Society," Gladstone distinguished himself as a debater, and became the editor of the Eton Miscellany. Mr. Russell tells us that at that time Eton Society was "a remarkable group of brilliant boys." Its members were decidedly Tory in their sympathies. They were not allowed to debate political questions, but under the thin disguise of historical questions they found a means of disclosing their political views.
At the end of 1827 Gladstone left Eton, and in October, 1828, he entered Christchurch, Oxford. There were many men then at Christchurch who afterwards distinguished themselves at the bar, in the church, or in politics. Here, as at Eton, Mr. Gladstone was a hard and faithful student, and he also became one of the most active members of the Union Debating Society, of which he was elected secretary and afterwards president. In the days of Arthur Pendennis, the self-conceited members of this society firmly believed that the Prime Minister watched the Union closely to see who of the members would make suitable members of the Cabinet. Bishop Charles Wordsworth, as he afterwards became, said of Gladstone's maiden speech in the Society, "It made me, and I doubt not others also, feel no less sure than of my own existence that Gladstone, our then Christchurch undergraduate, would one day rise to be Prime Minister of England."

The University of Oxford is a world in itself, and might in Gladstone's early days be described as a world all to itself. Its general principles were those of devotion to the State Church and Toryism. "The claims of rank and birth," says Mr. Russell, "were admitted with a childlike cheerfulness. The high function of government was the birthright of the few. The people had nothing to do with the laws except to obey them."

It may be well to note in passing that the history of Christchurch College justifies the conceited ideas of Arthur Pendennis and his friends, for during the century it has given seven Prime Ministers, not including Mr. Gladstone, to the English government. Among these were Lord Liverpool, George Canning, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Derby, Lord Salisbury, and Lord Rosebery.

Not content with his studies and the work of the Union Debating Society, Gladstone founded the Oxford Essay Club, which soon, however, came to be known as the "Weg," a title taken from his own initials. The members of this club used to assemble in each other's room to hear an essay from the occupant.
Mr. Gladstone was a great student of the Bible and of patristic literature during his school days, as he continued to be all through his life. He was exceedingly anxious to enter the ministry, but his father strongly opposed him in this, and at that time strict obedience to the wish of a father was an essential part of a son's duty.

Early in 1832 Gladstone left Oxford and went on his first visit to Italy, where he spent some months in travel and in study. He was called home by a sudden appeal to him to enter on a political and Parliamentary career. "Those who have watched," says Mr. McCarthy, "with ever-increasing interest the later years of his public life must know, of course, through what changes of opinion he struggled on to be a great political reformer. But there may be many to whom it would be a surprise to hear that the invitation which Mr. Gladstone first received was given because it was understood that he was one of the rising influences that made against reform; that he was determined to keep back if he possibly could the onward movement of the popular cause, and that he was, as Macaulay afterwards described him, the hope of the stern and unbending Tories of the day."

The invitation came from the Duke of Newcastle, who represented the principle that the landlord had absolute right over the votes of the constituency in which he owned most of the land. He once asked, "Have I not the right to do what I like with my own?"—"my own" being the constituency of Newark, one of the boroughs which fell within his territorial sway. The reform bill of 1832 for the first time gave the right of representation in Parliament and the right of suffrage to the middle classes. It struck sharply at the privileges of the territorial magnates, and caused much alarm among the Tories. And yet after all the reforms were only slight.

The Duke of Newcastle was looking for one to represent the Tory interests in the borough of Newark, and his son, Lord Lincoln (who had been a college friend of Gladstone, and had heard him deliver in his society a great anti-reform speech), recommended Mr. Gladstone to the Duke. The Duke, acting
on this recommendation, summoned Gladstone home from Italy, "and thus the greatest English reformer of our time came into practical politics as the advocate of the party which set itself against any and every manner of reform." But Mr. Gladstone could not even now go so far as the Duke, and said in his address before the electors of Newark that he was bound by the opinions of no man and no party, but said he felt it a duty to resist that growing desire for change which threatened to produce "along with partial good, a melancholy preponderance of mischief."

The Newark contest was fought with much stubbornness and passion. The Tory candidates were elected, Mr. Gladstone's name being at the head of the poll. This was the first general election after the passage of the reform bill. The Reformed Parliament met on January 20, 1833, and Mr. Gladstone took his seat in the chamber over which he was destined to wield such powerful influence in later life.

Here we now have Mr. Gladstone at the very outset of his Parliamentary career—a young man of rare gifts, with his friends among the most influential men in the realm, and with a brilliant college record. He seemed, as indeed he was, destined for a successful and useful career.

The Niebelungen Lied.

THE Niebelungen Lied is the great German epic poem of the middle ages; indeed, it may be called the great epic for all time of the German people; for just as the Homeric poems even to-day touch the heart and arouse the breast of every reader, so the Niebelungen Lied, the proud and peculiar heritage of the Germans, affords pleasure to all and awakes the especial interest of every one whose veins know Teutonic blood. Lettson, an English translator, says: "The Niebelungen Lied, like the Homeric poems, is a work for all ages and all nations; for like them it rests principally on those natural sympathies which are common to all mankind. A reader requires no previous training to relish such a work."
The Niebelungen Lied is, being interpreted, the song of the Niebelungs. "And who were the Niebelungs?" The answer is hidden in darkness that is readily suggested by the word itself, which is derived from "Nebel," meaning mist. Each name in the story may be shown more or less clearly to represent some historical personage—but that question must be deferred.

The poem begins by telling of Kriemhild and her dream. Kriemhild is the only daughter of the King of Burgundy's widowed mother, and dwells in the palace at Worms on the Rhine. She is the fairest maid in all the land. Her dream was that a falcon which she had tamed and cherished was one day destroyed by two eagles. Her mother told her it meant that she would choose a noble husband and would soon lose him. Kriemhild declared that she loved no man and wanted no man's love, and would remain a virgin till death. But she could not forget the dream.

Siegfried is a valiant young prince of the Netherlands on the lower Rhine. By bathing in dragon's blood he has made himself invulnerable, and already has come off victor in several great adventures. He has obtained the wonderful treasure and the allegiance of the Niebelungs, and the matchless sword of their king. And he has subdued Albric, the dwarf, and secured his cloud-cap that makes the wearer invisible. Now he determines to overcome the King of Burgundy and his knights, and woo the beautiful Kriemhild. He goes to Worms and challenges King Gunther, but is dissuaded from fighting, and accepts hospitable entertainment which lasts a whole year. During all this time he has not even seen Kriemhild; but now the Saxons make war against Burgundy, Siegfried is the most valiant of all in behalf of his Burgundian hosts, and the Saxons are beaten; six weeks later King Gunther gives a great feast, and now for the first time Siegfried sees Kriemhild. He lingers longer, and at last obtains the promise of Kriemhild's hand on condition that he aid King Gunther to woo Brunhild, the athletic queen of Issland, twelve days' voy-
age distant. The expedition is successful, and at their return a double marriage is celebrated by a splendid wedding at Worms.

Siegfried returns with his bride to his home in the Netherlands, and for ten years continues to rule over his father's dominion and the Niebelungs. It was twelve days' journey from Worm's, and the two kings, though brothers-in-law, did not visit each other. Now, after ten years, King Gunther makes a great feast at Worms and bids Siegfried and Kriemhild. They come and are cordially and splendidly received. But Kriemhild one day unadvisedly expressed her admiration for her husband in such a way as to make Brunhild jealous. The two queens quarrel, and Brunhild makes up her mind that Siegfried must be put out of the way. She tells her husband, King Gunther, and his lords. One of them, Hagen, agrees to do the deed. He finds out where there is an only vulnerable spot in Siegfried's horny skin, and into it he thrusts a spear when Siegfried is alone and off his guard.

Siegfried is buried at Worms. And Kriemhild, in her grief, refuses to return to her murdered husband's kingdom, but remains at Worms and visits his tomb every day. It became known that Hagen had killed Siegfried, and Kriemhild vowed to wreak vengeance upon him. She understood, too, that King Gunther, her brother, was privy to the plot, and for three years she did not speak to him; at last, however, she is reconciled to her brother, and is persuaded to have the great treasure of the Niebelungs brought to Worms. After she has spent much of it in presents, the jealous Hagen throws the rest of it in the Rhine. There it still remains undiscovered, and henceforth the Burgundians are known as Niebelungs.

Kriemhild has passed thirteen years of constant grief in daily visits to Siegfried's grave. But now she is wooed and won by Etzel, king of the Huns. He takes her to his far-away palace, and they live in peace for seven years. But she has never forgotten Hagen; for he still goes unpunished, and Siegfried's murder yet unavenged. Indeed, she had married
Etzel because she saw in union with him a means of obtaining vengeance upon Hagen. And now, she has an urgent invitation sent to her brother Gunther and his court to visit the Hunnish court, and they accept. They are hospitably received, but in fulfillment of Kriemhild’s plans and the Niebelungs’ fears, a quarrel is soon hatched, and a bloody fight begins. Gunther with Hagen and the rest of his lords and faithful allies on one side, and Etzel’s force and brave allies on the other, fight with fire and sword in the palace. When all the rest on the side of the Niebelungs are slain, Gunther and Hagen are captured. Gunther is slain, and Hagen is promised his life if he will tell—what he alone since Gunther’s death could tell—where the Niebelung treasure lies. But he firmly refuses, and is beheaded by Kriemhild’s own hand and with the Niebelung sword of Siegfried. This deed of Kriemhild is avenged by an indignant ally, who falls her on the spot. Thus perished the last of the Niebelungs, and this is the story—the Niebelungen Lied.

Such, with the exception of many a beautiful and important episode, is the story of Kriemhild’s love and revenge, an epic containing many tragedies, of which the last is the most awful. Outside of the poem, there are almost countless legends which tell of the early adventures of Siegfried, and Kriemhild and Brunhild and the rest, and of the scenes of mourning that came after the Niebelungs’ slaughter, and of the continuance of the Burgundian kingdom. Not only among the Germans, but among all the Teutonic tribes, there were many old traditions of the great personages in the Niebelungen Lied. And there are people who pretend to show that each one of these actors represents a real historical person. Be that as it may, all the Teutons once revered these heroes and heroines, and remembered them under slightly different names with common pride and affection. And songs of the horny Sigfrid are sold to-day at Scandinavian fairs.

The value of the poem cannot be measured, but may be regarded from different points of view. It has an originality that is only indicated by the fact that, so far as is known, it
was the first poem to ignore the classic rule of counting the length of syllables in making poetical feet, and the first to take account of the accent of syllables. No well-read person will hardly deny the assertion that reading any good literature renews one's vigor. And keeping these facts in mind we may understand that it should be inspiring to read this fresh and beautiful poem of the hardy Germans of Europe, written seven centuries ago, either in the racy original or in a good translation.

We see lofty sentiments portrayed and praised in this poem. We admire them, and when we remember to excuse many of the semi-barbarous deeds which, though condemned to-day, were honorable then, we admire the acting characters more.

The predominant spirit in the Niebelungen Lied is fidelity. We know that in a world like ours, where the Golden Rule is occasionally violated, absolute, unswerving and never faltering fidelity to one person may mean disregard for the comfort of others. And if this be true to-day in America, it must have been much more true among our unlettered ancestors in the primeval German settlements. We cannot but admire the devotion Kriemhild shows, not alone in years of daily mourning for her murdered husband Siegfried, but in the patient waiting through weary years and the leaving of the sacred tomb she was wont to visit every day, and the union with a king she did not love, in order to wreak her vengeance on her husband's assassin. And her cruelty is less blameworthy, because she had not been taught, as we have, that vengeance belongeth not to man. And the grim Hagen cannot be accused of unfaithfulness, when his very crimes, as they appear to us, were committed in obedience to the will of his king's wife and for the honor of his king. The lay of the Niebelungs is bloody, but its heroes do not in wantonness shed blood merely for the sake of shedding blood, but in obedience to all controlling purposes.

The scenes of this poem are not all dark and bloody. Beauty of form, the vigor of man, and the grace of woman is observed and praised.
The social position of woman is worthy of note. Virgin chastity and connubial faithfulness are not violated, and feminine beauty and grace are not degraded to sensual lust. We have a right to be proud that we are sprung from such a line instead of from some that lived in Italy, and that these virtues are noticeable in Germany to-day. And we need to see to it that no one may say, "O Teutons, how are ye fallen!" Moreover, men and women upon proper acquaintance—and never before—dined together and conversed together as equals, except that the ladies commanded peculiar respect. How favorable this condition compares with the relation of man and woman in Greece and Italy in a corresponding stage of civilization!

And even if we did not admire the characters of its heroes and heroines, their portrayal in this poem would be interesting, not only to the philosophical historian but to every one of us who can claim the remotest kinship to Siegfried or Kriemhild or Hagen. To the historian it makes little difference whether a man named Siegfried really lived and acted as this poem relates or not, or whether the rest of the characters were, as we would say, historical. For the German people of the thirteenth century believed the story and admired its heroes and heroines; and knowing this, we know the minds of those people, and that is sufficient as well as useful. We are at the source from which we can trace the development of German morals. This fact appeals to the interest of every one of us, and whether we see ourselves as refined evolutions from such rude people, or degenerate sons of illustrious sires who dared to do and die, we cannot despise them, or scorn the rugged beauty of the old poem that still breathes the freshness of the fragrant waves and woods.  

J. E. J. ('98).

My Thoughts and I at Midnight.

TWELVE o'clock! How rapidly the evenings pass in spring-time! More than two hours ago the light of my study-lamp burned low, flickered, and went out. Wearied in body and stupid in mind I laid aside my "History of Philoso-
"and, according to juvenile custom, reached for my Bible to read a chapter before retiring. The light of the moon streams in at my window and illumines the page. How pleasant is the change of reading to-night! In a moment I am transported from the realm of doubt, scepticism, and a hundred ethical conflicts to the simple truths of a simple gospel; in short, from a world of mysticism to the world of beautiful sunshine.

And why does the Good Book chance to open at this particular place? It is the story of Ruth, and the narrative is charming. I am thoroughly captivated by the pleasing incidents, the beautiful language, and — but stop! These are quite insignificant when compared to the one feature which, until now, has held my attention sub-consciously. I have been moved, slowly and strangely enough, by a strong, an unaccountable interest. It is the story of the life and growth of a child of nature; it is the unfolding of a pure white rose; it is the history of a woman's devotion; it is the story of a woman's love. "Whither thou goest, I will go; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried." Can these be fanciful words, or mere poetic expressions? No, they are the passionate outbursts of a human soul, expressing a woman's devotion, revealing a woman's love. This story reads like fiction, and I begin to wonder if the heart of man is capable of such emotions. If not, why are not these qualities admired all the more in the "weaker" sex? Do men, as a class, fully appreciate the affectionate disposition of woman? Do they half understand the nobility of her nature, and the wisdom of her judgment? Can the minds of men even approximate her self-sacrificing and eternal devotion to one whom she has learned to love?

"O woman! lovely woman! Nature made thee
To temper man; we had been brutes without you.
Angels are painted fair, to look like you.
There's in you all that we believe of heaven—
Amazing brightness, purity and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love."
The philosophy of human life is a fascinating study. Therefore I do not arrest the trend of my thoughts, but having reclined in an easy-chair, I begin a semi-conscious survey of my college course as a whole—its attainments in the classics and sciences, its loss of the heart that throbbed with my own, and the life that made mine worth living.

Something in that Scripture lesson to-night has carried me back to the scenes of long ago. I had a sweetheart once—the noblest, dearest, sweetest girl that ever loved an ardent lover. I remember the time when first we met, and how her stately mien, cordial words, and simple grace impressed me. I remember our frequent walks, and how all places seemed too near when we two went together. I remember our conversations, and the introduction of various topics in order that I might know her opinions. I remember the hour when, taking her hand in mine, I confided the secret of my life; the throbbing heart, the heaving breast, and the tremulous words, as with Christian fortitude she dwelt on the sacredness of the marriage bond, and the duties of loved to lover. I remember the blissful evenings when afterwards we sat together, she admiring the beauty of the heavens, while I thought most of angels. Yet neither uttered a word, for—

"There are moments when silence, prolonged and unbroken, More expressive may be than all words ever spoken."

I remember, too, the parting scene when I set out for college; the mutual pledges, and the kiss she shyly threw from the parlor window. Yes, and well do I remember the little quarrel later, and the letter that brought me back my—ah, well! why need we recall the unpleasant scenes of life? Margaret loved me and I almost worshipped her, but from that tragic time we drifted apart. She had been almost forgotten until this quiet hour of solitude, when some strange hand seems to roll back the curtain of time and present a panoramic view of the one great drama of my life.

Nearly four years have gone since last we parted, she remaining to cheer and brighten the home circle, while I came
here to prepare for my profession. During all this intervening time my mind has been centered upon books and the sterner problems of life. My course is almost finished now, and the budding trees and spring-time flowers remind me that graduation-day will soon be dawning. At this period of life all should be joy and bright expectancy; yet in the realm of happiness there is a conscious, an aching void. Then why should I be content to remain indifferent to the charms and refining influences of the complement of man? Whither shall I journey, and how shall I attempt to find the angel who somewhere awaits my coming? Shall I go again to the dear old place and rekindle the flames that once burned so brightly? These are the questions which now harass me. Independence asserts itself, and my first thought is to "let by-gones be by-gones," and seek my kindred spirit among friends yet unknown. But ever and anon a sweet voice whispers, "After all old things are best." I wonder if Margaret would care to see me again.

"She is a woman, therefore may be woo'd;
She is a woman, therefore may be won."

I love her still, and she shall know it. Acting upon the impulse, I seize my pen and write her a few lines boldly, saying, "I shall be passing through" her town just after the "finals," and asking permission to see her. Will my note have a kindly reception, or will it be tossed contemptuously to the flames? I count the days necessary in which to receive a reply. With my own hands I place the little missive in the corner box, and with a parting benediction it is started to an uncertain reception.

* * * * * * * *

It is the evening of June 25th, and I am "passing through" her town. A half-hour more and I shall see her face to face. In reply to my note I have received this non-committing and puzzling answer. Margaret used to call me "Jack," but now she writes:
"My Dear Mr. Hargrove:

Your friends in L— will be pleased to welcome you back, even for so short a time. Yes, I shall be at home the twenty-fifth of June, and we will be glad to have you call. Sincerely,

June thirteenth,
eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

MARGARET E. STILWELL."

Can I ever forget the peculiar sensations of this twilight hour as with mock boldness I pass down the familiar street leading to her father's house? Every eye is upon me, and every stranger seems intuitively to know my errand. Turning a corner I gaze once more upon the building which contains the one great treasure of the world. Nearer, and I notice a dim light stealing through the parlor window. I lift the front-gate latch, and nervously tread the granite walk again. Each step sounds to me like the march of infantry. I wonder if she will meet me at the threshold, as in former days. No, it is the cordial greeting of the old family servant, who points me to the parlor.

Oh! what a host of memories sweep over my troubled brain as once more I sit in this enchanted room! Here is the old-fashioned piano, looking as if she were just done playing; there upon the mantel that ridiculous snap-shot of our picnic-party taken some five summers ago; and, unconsciously, I have seated myself upon the little sofa that, could it speak, would tell of scenes and stories never yet surpassed.

But what of the queen herself? Will she, too, be unchanged by the passing years, or has the wreck of time left some trace upon her classic brow? Will she be really glad to see me, or shall I be greeted with the cordiality of simple friendship? Will she listen again to the story of my love, or, more probable, will she tell of how another has come and won her affections? Oh! that some magic hand could blot out the memories of that wicked strife, and give me back — but hush! I hear the sound of gentle footsteps in the hall, and my soul is thrilled at the approach of her angelic form. A moment more and her gentle hand is upon the knob of the half-jarred door. With flushed cheeks, with tingling nerves, and a thousand sensations coursing through my veins I arise, and with outstretched hand start to meet — my room-mate come in from calling.

H.
Mr. Gladstone was in many respects the greatest man of the century, and in his death not England alone, but the whole world feels the great loss. We cannot undertake to give even an outline of his life and of his services to his country and the cause of liberty. From his entrance to Parliament, at the age of twenty-three, until the close of his long life he was constantly to the front in the affairs of the nation; not urged on by any selfish ambition or sordid desire, but called by his party to take the lead because he was found worthy and capable.

We publish in this issue a sketch of his early life, hoping that his example of fidelity to every duty may incite the reader to strive more zealously to follow him in this respect. We could not publish a full account of his life-work, and so decided to give only the beginning; and after all this is perhaps the most important period for us to consider. It is of the greatest concern to us to know how such a man used his opportunities in his college days, and we find Mr. Gladstone was a diligent student, and that he never wasted his time while at college.

It is interesting to note how Mr. Gladstone, from being a Tory upon his entrance to Parliament, became the leading advocate of reform in almost every instance where it was sought to extend the liberties of the masses.

But the main thing of which we wished to speak we had almost forgotten and must now mention very briefly—the literary work done by this busy statesman. It is marvelous how one so constantly engaged in the affairs of the state, and so burdened with the responsibilities of national leadership could find time to do such extensive and such varied literary work. He has left us many books, and all of them are standard works on the various subjects treated. Among his most widely-known publications are the following: "The State in
its Relations with the Church," "Studies on Homer and the Homeric Age" (3 vols.), "Juventus Mundi," "The Vatican Decrees," "Gleanings of Past Years" (7 vols.), and "The Irish Question."

The life of William Ewart Gladstone will be an inspiration to generations yet unborn, and all lovers of human liberty will rise up and call him blessed.

SUPPORT THE MESSENGER. We regret to have to come again with complaints against the student body, and more especially against the two literary societies, because of their lack of support to the MESSENGER, but something must be done to arouse the slumbering literati in our midst.

So far as we have been able to observe, the societies are doing better work than ever before since we have known anything of them. The new constitutions, under which they are now working, seem to have infused new life into the meetings, and they are decidedly more lively and interesting than they formerly were. We think that this improvement has been very evident in the orations and debates made for the various medals of the societies. In announcing the winner of the Joint Orator's Medal, Governor Tyler said he had never heard better speeches in any college contest, and we think there were others present who agreed with the Governor, for the speeches were all good.

But why is there so little interest in writing? This is a question we confess we cannot answer satisfactorily, but that there is a great lack of interest we know full well. We have the hardest time getting any suitable matter to publish, and often we have to wait until the very last of the month to get anything at all that is suitable.

We find a willingness on the part of those who have delivered an oration in their society or on the part of those who have entered a debater's contest to submit their orations and debates; but these, while often very good indeed, are not the kind of articles we need to make the MESSENGER readable, and for that reason alone we do not publish them.
Let us have more fiction and more poetry; we never lack for essays or orations. So let all try to give us short stories or poems. And allow us to suggest, what we see urged in many of our exchanges and what we most heartily approve, that you give us stories bearing on college life or something with which you are familiar. Dialect stories are always readable if good, and we have a wide field for these.

Let us again urge upon all the great importance of writing for the Messenger, both for the good of the magazine and of those who give time and honest effort to this work.

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MID-SUMMER ISSUE. We think best to delay our last issue for this year until about the middle of vacation. This has been done for several years and has been found to give satisfaction. But we wish this number to be different from the ones usually gotten out during the summer. The prospects are that when the business of the year is wound up we will have funds enough in hand to get out a considerably larger paper than usual, and it is our desire to make it a special fiction and poetry number.

We will therefore be glad to have all of the students submit some story or poem as soon as they can, but trying not to be later than July 25th.
The Best Debaters' Contest of the Philologian Literary Society was held in the Society hall on the evening of May 13th. The question for debate was "Should the A. P. A. Receive the Support of American Citizens?" The debate promised to be one of more than ordinary interest, as some of the best men in the Society, as well as senior men in College, were among the contestants. The Society and its many friends who had assembled were not disappointed, as the speeches for the most part were good. The contestants were Messrs. S. P. De Vault, J. W. T. McNiel (medallist), B. A. '98; John E. Johnson, M. A. '98; Sands Gayle, B. L. '97, and E. D. Turner.

The commencement exercises of Richmond College for 1898 will begin on Sunday evening, June 19th, with the preaching of the commencement sermon by Rev. D. M. Ramsey, of Charleston, S. C., who is an alumnus of this institution.

On Monday evening the Mu Sigma Rho and Philologian Literary Societies and the Williams Law Association will hold their annual celebration. Messrs. W. B. Daughtry and R. L. Williams are respectively Final President and Final Orator of the Mu Sigma Rho, and Messrs. W. L. Prince and A. J. Hall of the Philologian.

The exercises on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings include addresses by members of the graduating class, an alumni banquet with toasts and responses, and a commencement address by President W. R. Harper, Ph. D., LL. D., of the University of Chicago. The graduating class this year will be almost twice as large as any former class, and it is expected that there will be four Masters of Arts in the number.

The Readers' and Declaimers' Contests of the College are to take place in the College chapel, the former on Thursday eve-
ning, May 26th, the latter on Tuesday evening, May 31st. There are a large number of contestants for each medal, and the "race" will be close and exciting.

One sunny afternoon not long since a very large and interesting family-group assembled on the steps of one of our campus mansions with the avowed intention, at all risks to the camera, of having their picture taken.

Several of the students, well known for their ability to act the monkey, were sent for to amuse the grandchildren, while a dark-skinned brother, furnished for the purpose by the photographer, with smiling countenance bade the young ladies look pleasant.

An honored Professor, the head of the family, having been supplied with gloves, Meiklejohn's English Grammar, and other necessities, the auspicious moment seemed at length to have arrived; but unfortunately just at this moment, in spite of the entirely natural "monkeying" of the obliging students, the grandchildren, naturally excited in this time of war by the cannon-like instrument, became refractory, and, in short, refused to be comforted. Finally the photographer himself took a hand, but even he who had explored the depths of this great science, could by no means stifle the heart-rending sobs, so, thinking that "he who fights and runs away will live to fight another day," he decided to forego further action until the happy day when tears should be changed to smiles. I must not omit to add that all thanks are due to our African friend, for so well did he perform his task that chancing to see the above-mentioned young ladies a week or more afterward I noticed that they were still "looking pleasant."

The Improvement Contest in Debate of the Mu Sigma Rho Society took place in the Society hall on Friday evening, the 13th of May. Messrs. Herbert Bates, H. L. Dudley, and L. B. Lloyd were the contestants, and all three speeches showed conclusively that a literary society is the place for development. The handsome medal was awarded by vote of the Society to Mr. Dudley.
The 10th of May being the annual Field-Day of Richmond College, our campus was lit up with the faces of many of Richmond's fairest, and I need not add that to the students the occasion was a most enjoyable one. For a full account of the day I refer you to the pages of my friend, the "Sporting Editor."

The Richmond College Alumni Association of Kentucky, recently formed through the efforts of Dr. S. E. Woody, Dr. C. H. Jones, Prof. W. O. Carver, and others, held its first regular meeting on the evening of the 19th of May at the Galt House, of Louisville, where a banquet was served.

On Friday morning, May 7th, at chapel service, we were exceedingly entertained by Mr. James Young, the celebrated actor, and one of his company, who gave us recitations from Shakespeare. Mr. Young played in "Hamlet" and "Lady of Lyons" at the Academy on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Dr. Carroll, ex-Professor of Greek in Richmond College, has returned to this city, after his winter's stay in Rome and Athens.

Miss Elise Mauldin, of Anderson, S. C., is visiting Professor and Mrs. Gaines.

The annual Best Debaters' Contest of the Mu Sigma Rho Literary Society took place on Friday evening, May 20th. The beautiful and costly medal was won by Mr. J. W. Durham, of Essex county. The question debated was—

Resolved, That Church Property Should Be Taxed.

The speakers were: Affirmative, C. T. Willingham, F. W. Moore, R. L. Williams; Negative, J. W. Durham, W. B. Daughtry, J. D. Mitchell.

All of the speeches showed careful preparation, and the contest was very close.
The annual contest of the Virginia State Inter-Collegiate Oratorical Association was held in the College chapel Friday evening, May 6th, with Pres. O. L. Owens in the chair. Every college in the Association—there being eight in all—was represented. Although the rain fell in torrents during the day and in the evening also, yet the large chapel was well filled when the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Z. T. Sweeney, of the Seventh-street Christian church.

The following is a list of the speakers as they came on the programme, with their subjects and colleges respectively given:

1. Orator—Richard A. Stewart, Emory and Henry College.
   Subject: “The Merit of Endeavor.”
   Subject: “Virginia and Virginians.”
3. Orator—Randolph Royall Claiborne, William and Mary College.
   Subject: “The Power and Influence of Minorities.”
   Subject: “Aaron Burr.”
5. Orator—D. S. Burleson, University of Virginia.
   Subject: “The Destiny of the English-Speaking People.”
   Subject: “Literature—Our Greatest Heritage.”
   Subject: “What For.”
   Subject: “Individuality and Social Organization.”

The speeches were all of a high order, well delivered, and enjoyed by all present. The medal was awarded to Mr. Burleson, of the University of Virginia. All concur with the judges in their decision, as this gentleman made a most excellent oration in every respect. The second place, however, by many was accorded to Mr. George P. Bagby, the representative from Richmond College. The judges consisted of the following gentlemen: Rev. Dr. M. D. Hoge, Rev. Z. T. Sweeney, and Attorney-General A. J. Montague. Congressman Jos. W. Bailey, of Texas, consented to serve and was expected, but telegraphed on the last day that the illness of his wife would prevent his coming.
All of the contestants, with the exception of one or two who stayed with friends in the city, were entertained at Murphy’s Hotel.

Much credit is due to the Committee on Arrangements, of which Mr. John E. Johnson was chairman, for the beautiful and artistic manner in which they decorated the rostrum. Those who were familiar with the colors of the various colleges could easily distinguish its representative, as his chair was draped with his colors extending from the ceiling down. With these were blended the stars and stripes and coat-of-arms of Virginia.

Charles G. McDaniel, B. A. ’97, and Editor-in-Chief of the Messenger ’95–’6, is on the campus, visiting his old friends for a few days. He has just returned from the Rochester Seminary, and says he likes New York very much. Glad to have you with us again, “Mac.”
This is the time of year for retrospection in athletic circles. The student that has been actively engaged in college sports through the entire year is content to seek some shady nook (when he is not studying) and talk of the various events that have taken place in the different departments and speculate as to the probable improvement next year.

Those who have neglected taking advantage of this useful department can only regret what they have done and draft "New Year's resolutions" for next year.

FIELD-DAY.

The most important event relating to our year's work is Field-Day. That is the testing time of what each man has done during the session towards developing the physical man. This year the day was one of unusual interest, which was attested by the great number of people in attendance. We were most agreeably surprised when our president announced that a grand-stand of sufficient capacity to comfortably seat the visitors would be erected upon the grounds, but our fondest hopes were more than realized when so many more than could find a seat attended; but our beautiful campus, with its ever-delightful shade-trees and velvety lawn, afforded a splendid substitute. One of the many pleasant features of the occasion was the presence of the sponsor and maids of honor. These consisted of Miss Ruth Tanner, sponsor; Misses Parker, Newman, and Knox, maids of honor. It was indeed a happy selection, and our Field-Day Committee is due all thanks for this manifestation of originality and good judgment in selecting such an elegant and charming company to encourage the knights in displaying their skill in strength physical. The sponsor's balcony throughout the day was a delightful resort for the more gallant, who vied with each other in making the distinguished company feel our appreciation of their presence.
The first event was opened at 9 o'clock. It consisted in Tennis singles, being won by Mr. E. L. Carroll first, Fred Gochnauer second.

Then followed in rapid succession throughout the day—Tennis Doubles—Winners, G. E. Mabry and Herman Taylor.

Mile Run—Winner, Douglas Ellyson.
Sack Race—Winner, J. A. Watson.
Gymnasium Drill—Winner, G. C. Durham.
Standing Broad Jump—Winner, J. H. Mabry.
Ball Throwing—Winner, J. A. Watson.
Pole Vault—Winner, H. H. Hudson.
Coal Race—Winner, J. D. Lee.
Running Broad Jump—Winner, J. D. Frazer.
Hurdle Race—Winner, J. J. Watson.
Putting Shot—Winner, J. J. Watson.
Tug of War—Winner, J. B. Kaufman (captain).
High Kick—Winner, J. D. Frazer.
Obstacle Race—Winner, G. B. Graves.
Basket-Ball—Winner, "The Deweyites."
One-Hundred-Yard Dash—Winner, J. D. Frazer.
High Jump—Winner, W. V. Thraves.
Wheelbarrow Race—Winners, J. D. Frazer, G. B. Graves.
Bicycle Race—Winner, J. D. Lee.
Consolation Race—Winner, Burnley Lankford.

Now it only remained for the sponsor to deliver the medals and prizes, and this was performed in an easy and graceful manner. Mr. J. D. Frazer was declared the best all-round man, having won the medal by scoring sixty points. The flowers were also presented to Mr. Frazer, he having been declared by the sponsor and her maids as the most popular contestant.

This brought us to the close of a day full of interest and one long to be remembered by the students, who declare it the most successful occasion of the kind seen in several years.
Our exchanges for April are indeed legion. On the whole, they are up to their usual standard. We fancy the war excitement must have blighted the usual abundant crop of "spring poets," however, for we find comparatively few poems of nature. We would like to give a kind word of encouragement to you all, but time and space bid us be brief.

We are sorry to see that some of our exchanges are thinking of abolishing the exchange department. We should be sorry to see this done. As we understand it, the office of an exchange editor is two-fold. First, he is to serve as a kind of mirror in which the editor-in-chief of other magazines may see himself as others see him and profit thereby. Secondly, he should be a medium through which students of one school may judge of the literary work of others. Now, the former of these particularly we think important—essential to the success of a college magazine, and we cannot see how it can be obtained other than by the present method. We think the trouble lies in the inattention or inability of the exchange editor. For if he contents himself with a few worthless clippings or a word of injudicious praise he had better be silent. The remedy, we suggest, is to be found in more faithful and consistent attention to the work that lies before us.

The first we note is the Brown Magazine. Coming as it does from the great Brown University, we expected something good, and we were not disappointed. A poem entitled "A Mid-Sea Medley" is the best we have yet seen in a college magazine—certainly in diction, if not in both sentiment and diction. We hope to see more from the pen of the author, and feel certain that if he continues to give forth such productions he will take a high stand among the literati of to-day.
"Wanted—Brown Stories." We like this article very much, because of the strong and well-expressed advice which the author gives to students to turn from the stale plots and hackneyed phrases of modern novelists and short-story writers to the scenes which we are acquainted with and the expression of feelings which we have felt.

In the Baylor Literary we find one of our best exchanges. "‘Cuba Libre’" and "The Political Freedom of Women" are handled in a forceful and elegant manner. We had always been accustomed to think of Charles Lamb as "quaint" and entertaining, and worthy of the place he occupies among the great writers of England, but we confess our faith was very much shaken by the "Style of Charles Lamb." While we cannot agree with the author in many points, we admire his vigorous style and the fearlessness with which he writes.

Full of college spirit is the Illini from the University of Illinois. We do not think, however, that it contains solid matter enough. College spirit and the work of college organizations are not as entertaining as good prose and poetry.

We think it unnecessary to add any word to the praises which the Clemson College Chronicle has justly been receiving. It is full of readable matter and is well edited.

"No man can enter the Temple of Fame on another man’s crutches." We clip this from an article on "Originality in Fiction" in the Orange and White, and commend it to the story-writers of our exchanges.

The only thing that mars the April issue of the Wellesley Magazine is the almost entire lack of poetry. Usually the magazines of female schools surpass those of the stronger sex in this point. We feel certain that our "sisters" will remedy
this defect in their next issue. Otherwise the magazine is a model. "The Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning" is especially well written.

"Some Thoughts on Student Life in Germany" is a very entertaining article in the *North Carolina University Magazine*. This issue of the magazine is a good one. We wish it would come oftener.

The *Red and Blue* for May contains an able article on "Kipling and Poetry." The author thinks that Kipling should find another field than the "brute in man" for his poetic genius, or should turn to prose in which he may treat any subject. He objects to his desecration of the sacred realms of poesy. The fiction of this magazine is very good, and occasionally we find some poetry of merit. We think, however, that the exchange editor became unduly "wrought up" in his comment on "A Terrible Christmas Night" in the *Emory Phoenix*. We agree with him that as a literary production it is worthless and that it should have been omitted. But the same might be said of "A Rather Romantic Incident" and many others. We are inclined to believe that the cause which so irritated the editor was not the worthlessness of the criticised story but the fact that it was a true incident, and more, that it was but one of many such.

We must not fail to make mention of the *Chisel* from the Woman's College of Richmond. This is a very attractive and well-edited magazine. It contains just what the *Messenger* lacks—good fiction and good poetry. So we see if the two were united we would have a first-class magazine. May that day soon come!

Bismarck has said that one-third of the students in the German universities destroy themselves by dissipation, one-third wear themselves out by overwork, and the rest govern Europe.—*Ex.*
"Examinations come apace,
The way is growing stony;
I'd give most anything to know
As much as my good pony." — Ex.

STARS.

Uplift your head of fire,
Starwatchers of the night;
Look on the dust and mire
Of this world's loss and blight:
Your lightnings flash from space to space,
While earth a path obscure must trace.

Look once again; behold
Orbs of diviner light
Within this planet old,
Souls in God's image bright:
Shrink back, eclipsed, each waning sphere;
Immortal are the splendors here.—Ex.

FOR MEN ONLY.

"If she had to stand on her head,
We know she'd get at it somehow,
This poem she's already read
Now we'll wager ten cents to a dollar
If she gets the least kind of a show.
But, you bet, she'll hand it out anyhow,
If she's anything but ought not to know,
If there's anything that worries a woman,"

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You may pen a sweet proposal,
Get an answer most sublime;
But a kiss not done in person
Is a failure every time.—Ex.
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