

SAPERE AUDE



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SCHOOL NOTES.

LITERARY CLUB.—Two meetings of the Literary Society have been held this term, one in October, one in the middle of November, the third meeting is to be held during the record week in December. The first meeting, which was especially well attended by the Lower Fourth, was for the discussion of the ways of creatures of all kinds—in particular spiders, beetles, ants, bees, butterflies. Emilie Thackeray had intended to bring a bee with her to aid her in giving her paper, but the foolish bee died on the way. Some interesting specimens and pictures were forthcoming however, though not nearly so many as we wanted. Ada Cockcroft's spiders made us all shudder, and Ethel Wooster, Gertie Smith, and Lillian Rye all contributed to the enjoyment of the members of our learned Society. At the second meeting only two papers were offered on "Rob Roy," as our energies had been spent on the bazaar of the week before, but a good many readings from the book were given. The committee would be glad to see greater enterprise and forethought in preparation for the meetings, and takes this opportunity of announcing the first subject for next term—Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer."

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Sec., N. NIELD, Form VI.

THE LITERARY CLUB LIBRARY is to be considerably increased this term, as we shall fortunately not have to continue to set aside ten shilling a term as previously decided for a bookcase. This term the books have been moved from the Sixth Form room to the cupboard, formerly used for maps, now kindly lent to us by Miss Clark. We have made several additions to the library, and have still £1 4s. left to expend on new books. The new books are:—"Kenilworth," 2 vols.; Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies;" Church's "Stories from Virgil," "Life of Frank Buckland;" and Miss Yonge's "Caged Lion" has been ordered. Miss Evington has promised us another of Scott's novels ("The Monastery," 2 vols), and Alice Sergeant has presented the Club with the "Second Jungle Book." The Secretary and Treasurer will be glad of suggestions for new books.

Librarian, A. SERGEANT.

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THE THIRD FORM READING AND STORY CLUB has held three meetings this term. At the first meeting all the old members were present, and the subject was "Robinson Crusoe." Extracts were read; Nellie Whittaker recited Cowper's "Alexander Selkirk," and Ellen Bright gave a "Life of Defoe." It was decided that the Lower Third should be asked to join the Club, and a committee was elected. Miss Fox promised to act with Miss Kerly as Vice-President, Mary Hanson is the Secretary. At the second meeting Stead's edition of "Gulliver's Travels" was read, and much amusement was derived from the pictures of the little men and the giants. The third meeting, held Tuesday, December 5th, was all about animals, and many stories, recitations, and biographies of our pets were given by the 20 members present. The Club has bought Miss Yonge's "Caged Lion," and has now two shillings in hand for another book.

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HOCKEY.—The Hockey Club is in a very flourishing condition this term, quite a large number of girls stay after school, and this enables us to have exciting games. We are trying hard to work up the girls so that we may have a good team, and then perhaps we might think of playing a few matches with outside schools. Those members who went to watch the match between the Pendleton and the Manchester High Schools were much impressed with the good play of the Pendleton girls, and with the way in which they passed the ball on to each other. This is a feat which we have not yet mastered. The players have not yet recognised that it is of great importance to whom they pass the ball. It is quite possible to give considerable help to the enemy if the ball is not carefully placed. We cannot play with a full team of eleven aside as our ground is too small, but we hope soon to go to Pendleton and practice with the girls on their full sized ground. We have had new sticks this

term, which has made the game much more exciting. Miss Ellis and Miss Hugon have been very kind in staying to practice with the girls, and we hope that now we have made a good start, we may some day make a name for ourselves as hockey players.

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L. RYE, Lower IV.

THE BAZAAR.—Last summer a few of the girls began to work for a small bazaar in aid of the League of Pity. After the summer holidays the other girls were asked to help, and it became a larger affair than was expected at first. Miss Clark said it might be held in the hall. From the beginning of the term sewing meetings were held at the school every other week, instead of the League of Pity meetings, and everyone then worked for the bazaar. Numbers of "parcels" were brought by the mistresses and girls, and on November 11th the bazaar was held, Mrs. Emmott opened it at 2 o'clock. There were three fancy stalls, a flower stall, and a refreshment stall. The stalls were draped in yellow and white—the school colours—and the stall holders were dressed in the same colours. The flower stall was in the middle of the room. A good many things were sent from Spain, and they made the stalls look very pretty. About 450 tickets were sold, and a great many people came. There were three entertainments, two concerts, and a lantern lecture, each of which had to be repeated. Tea was given in the dining room. By ten o'clock the Bazaar was over, and nearly everything sold. With all expenses paid, £64 5s. od. was obtained—a great deal more than was expected when it was started.

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ADA NEILD.

A welcome guest at the Prize-giving and the Bazaar was Miss Semmens, who is taking the head mistress' work at Sale High School for a few weeks. Miss Semmens is hoping to see some of us at the hockey matches at Sale School before the term is over. We were all sorry not to see Mrs. Walton on Speech Day, but Mr. Emmott read a letter from her in which she congratulated the girls on the report of the year, and showed her continued interest in the School.

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We are very well pleased with the warm support our old girls give to all the School festivities. Harriette Thackeray was one of the busiest workers for the Bazaar, and many others, if unable to be present, brought their gifts. Annie Stopherd's baby doll was a great ornament to the stall, and Mabel Wooster's work looked very warm and pretty, while Amy Liversage, whose baby doll was "dressed in haste," showed that our girls know how to sew.

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Miss Bott has received a very welcome letter from Mildred Faull, also with news that she has been doing very well in her work. She has obtained Third Class Honours in the Oxford Junior Local Examinations, and besides several S. Kensington Certificates (Drawing, Mathematics, Physiology), has obtained the Ann Cowen Scholarship of £5, and free schooling for a year to the People's College, Nottingham. We congratulate Florence Fernley also on her success in the Oxford University Extension Examination, in which she obtained the First place in History, with over 90 per cent. of the maximum marks. We shall be glad to hear of any other distinction gained by our old girls.

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It was decided last term that an Old Girls' Association should be formed. A preliminary meeting was therefore held, and Committee and Officers appointed. President, Miss Clark; Vice-President, Miss Fox; Treasurer, Miss Evington; Secretary, Miss Bott; Committee, Laura Lee, Mary Hall, May Whittaker, Gwen Griffiths, Effie Shaw; A. Sergeant and E. Thackeray represent present pupils on the Committee.

The following rules were passed:—(1).—That the Annual Subscriptions shall be 2 -, or 3/- including the Magazine. (2).—That every member shall contribute at least one article of clothing every Christmas, to be distributed as the Society shall think best. (3).—That the Meetings of the Society shall be held on the First Thursday in December, and the First Thursday in July each year, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the winter, and from 6 to 9 in the summer.

The first meeting of the Society was purely social, and the programme contained the following items: "Waltz" (in the hall), Pianist, G. Sudlow; "Sir Roger de Coverley," Pianist, Miss Evington. The first item was "Tea" by all members. We hope it is the first of many delightful reunions.

We are glad to see so many present and past pupils at the Extension Lectures at the Co-operative Hall, on Wednesday Evenings. The lantern slides are specially useful to students of history.

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The School is growing accustomed to excursions into Manchester. On Saturday, December 2nd, a party of the Upper School Girls, guided by Miss Ellis, Miss Bott, and Miss Kerly, went to see *Richard II* played by Benson's Company. Everyone enjoyed the play, and the characters were warmly discussed over a cosy tea at the Moseley Street Art Gallery afterwards. Lilian Johnson was the only old pupil present.

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The Dancing Class, held by Miss King-May, is very large this term. It is held on Mondays, and includes a course of practice with Indian Clubs.

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Term Monitresses have, for the first time, been appointed in each class, and a Monitresses Meeting was held, when Miss Clark presented each girl with her badge of office. The Prefects have now silver medals bearing the school crest, and wear them, you may be sure, where they may be seen. The Monitresses are—Form I, Annie Bodden; L. II, A. Wood; L. III, M. Newton, M. Maw; Up. III, A. Buckley, A. Watson; L. IV, A. Sugden, J. Lawton; Up. IV, S. C. Lees; V, V. Phillips. The Prefects are—N. Neild, A. Sergeant, B. Fryer, O. Garfitt, E. Anderton, E. Thackeray.

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There was not a sufficient number of answers sent in to the "Search Competition" to be worth publishing. We shall hope to renew the Competition in some later number.

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A New Asphalt Tennis Court is now in progress, so that the girls may play tennis in the winter. The old pupils will be able to use it at their summer meeting, and we hope it will be ready for all members next term.

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We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the following Magazines:—North London Collegiate School (Our Magazine for June), and the Manchester High School Magazine for November. We shall be glad to receive others in exchange for ours.

MUSINGS ON A RECENT BAZAAR.

BY ONE WHO WAS THERE.

The stalls with draperies gay were hung
And goods galore,

The choice so varied rivals e'en
A household store.

Of pinafores there's quite a stock
For babies sweet,
Shawls and vases, cosy shoes
To warm their feet.

Fresh flowers and baskets, works of art,
And dolls and toys.
Soap for the housewife, sweets for th'sweet,
Both girls and boys.

Beware, beware, ye sterner sex,
Who venture near,
All hope (if any hope remain)
Abandon here.

"Now here is one who will not fail,"
Some maid will cry—

"What is the use of any man
Except to buy?"

"Do take this pretty pincushion,
The work is mine.
I'm sure you'll think it very cheap
At six and nine."

Should he resist these tender pleas
I frankly own
The wretched creature must possess
A heart of stone.

The work of many busy hands
These treasures show,
And tender-hearted sympathy
For other's woe.

All honour to the workers be,
Both near and far!
For many a starving child will bless
Our School Bazaar.

SPEECH DAY.

Speech Day was held this year on Friday, November 24th. At 7 p.m. visitors began to arrive, and by 7-30 nearly all the seats in the Hall were filled. The schoolboys sat in the front on one side, and the girls on the other side of the hall. At 7-30 the chair was taken by Mr. Emmott, who was accompanied on to the platform by Mrs. Hopkinson, Mrs. Emmott, Mrs. Lees, Miss Clark, Principal Hopkinson, Mr. Hesketh Booth, and Mr. Andrew. Alice Sergeant presented Mrs. Hopkinson with a bouquet, and Dorothy Wilde gave Miss Clark one from the girls, made of flowers of the school colours (white and yellow). The girls and boys together, conducted by Mr. Pardoe, sang the Latin hymn, "Veni Creator." Mr. Emmott then made a speech, after which he read Miss Clark's report. Next Mr. Andrew read out his report. This was followed by the event of the evening, viz., Principal Hopkinson presenting the prizes and certificates. Alice Sergeant and Nellie Neild had done remarkably well in passing the London Matriculation Examination in the first division. Many well-earned prizes and certificates were given. One boy had passed into the Victoria University, the first that had ever done so from this school. After this was finished Principal Hopkinson made a most delightful speech. Canon Rountree proposed a vote of thanks to Principal Hopkinson, and Mr. Hesketh Booth seconded the resolution. Mr. Emmott then said it was carried unanimously and that all would show their approval in the usual way, at which there was immense clapping of hands. Principal Hopkinson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Emmott, who acknowledged it and proposed that all should sing "God Save the Queen." Afterwards three cheers were given for Principal Hopkinson, for the ladies, for the head master, and for the school. For this last the noise was deafening. Everybody now dispersed after a very pleasant evening.

G. MILLINGTON (Upper IV).

PRIZE LIST.

Although an account of the Prize Day has already appeared in several of the Oldham papers, we are sure all interested in the school will be anxious to see the prize list, which we give below in full:—

FORM VI.—Nellie Neild and Alice Sergeant, prizes presented by Mr. Hesketh Booth to the head girls of the school.

FORM V.—Emilie Thackeray, prize for English and Languages.

FORM IV.—Vera Phillips, form prize presented by Mr. Booth, and prize for English, Languages, Science, and Mathematics.

FORM LOWER IV.—Mary Schofield, form prize presented by Mr. Emmott, and prize for English and Languages. Ethel Anderton, prize for Science and Mathematics.

FORM III.—Ellen Bright, first form prize presented by Mr. Emmott. Helen Whittaker, second form prize. Mary Kershaw, third form prize.

FORM II.—Annie Buckley, first form prize presented by Mr. Emmott. Margaret Maw, second form prize. Mary Hodgson, third form prize.

FORM I.—Gladys Fell, form prize presented by Mr. Emmott.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.—Alice Sergeant and Nellie Neild in First Division.

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OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE BOARD CERTIFICATES.—Ellen Anderton, *Scripture, *Geography, *French, *Arithmetic, and Mathematics. Alice Gallimore, Scripture, History, Geography, French, Arithmetic, and Mathematics. Vera Phillips, Scripture, History, *Geography, French, *Arithmetic, and Mathematics. Emilie Thackeray, *Scripture, *History, Geography, French, and Arithmetic. Sara Fletcher passed in Scripture, History, and Geography. Susan Lees passed in Scripture, Geography, French, and Arithmetic. [*First class.]

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SOUTH KENSINGTON EXAMINATIONS (Elementary Stage).—Chemistry, Class I—Marion Brown and Vera Phillips. Class II—Ellen Anderton. Physics, Class II—Vera Phillips.

ROYAL DRAWING SOCIETY'S EXAMINATIONS.

HONOURS CERTIFICATES.—Preparatory Division—Gladys Fell, Isabella Clark. Division I (Flat Objects)—Gladys Millington, Alice Nicholson, May Kershaw, Ellen Bright, Lilian Neild, Avice Taylor, Mary Hodgson, Margaret Maw. Division II (Foreshortened Planes and Curves)—Elsie Atkins, Ethel Anderton, Mary Schofield, Janet Lawton, Alice Watson, Mary Hanson. Division III (Models)—Vera Phillips, Ada Neild, Ethel Wooster. Division IV (Plant Form, Casts)—Emilie Thackeray.

PASS CERTIFICATES.—Preparatory Division—Florence Mills, Amy Wood. Division I—Gertrude Hirst, Gertrude Siddall, Gertrude Smith, Bessie Nicholson, Bertha Holt, Mary Letham, Lillie Horrobin, Helen Whittaker, Mary Tanner, Hilda Wooster, Marjorie Martland, Elizabeth Newton, Sarah Hall, Lilian Hood, Beatrice Shaw, Emily Bradbury, Phyllis Robson, Eva Birch, Maggie Newton, Annie Wood, Helena Horrobin, Edith Hulton, Hilda Whitehead, Muriel Griffiths. Division II—Edith Andrew, May Nicholson, Edith Cooper, Elsie Taylor, Sarah Lees, Gladys Hollingworth. Division III—Susan Lees. Division IV—Dorothy Mellalieu.

Certificates of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music.—Pianoforte—Mary Hodgson, Maggie Newton

Prize presented by Miss Kerly to the winner of the School Tennis Tournament—Dorothy Mellalieu.

HOME-LIFE IN NORWAY.

A loud rat-tat awakened me from a sound sleep, and in answer to my "come in," Lega (pronounced Leeta), the maid enters with a cup of coffee. Dresses and boots are taken away and brought back nicely brushed. At 8-30 a.m. we duly appear at breakfast. The Norwegians have several kinds of bread, and very rich cream is plentiful, and at all the meals fish and cheese are the most important foods. The cheese made from goat's milk by the peasants is very palatable. After breakfast our host goes into town on 'Change, and we, with our hostess, take the electric tram into Bergen to do our shopping and see the town. The town is very busy on Friday and Saturday, especially about the fish market. It is great fun to watch the Norsewomen bargain for the fish, which are kept alive in tanks, and we are occasionally splashed all over by a very lively cod.

We take the steamer back to Sandirgen and arrive there just in time for dinner at two o'clock. After dinner everybody has a little sleep till four o'clock, when all partake of coffee and cake—this little meal is generally served outside on the balcony. The house is on an eminence overlooking Bergen Bay, and the land behind rises to a height of 600 feet. After coffee we walk up the mountain as far as the path goes, and then we sit down and rest awhile. From this point a lovely view of the whole of Bergen, and the surrounding mountains, opens out before us. The entrance to the harbour is quite hidden by the hills, and the harbour therefore presents the appearance of a large lake. On its waters are continually passing steamers from England and the various ports of Norway and Sweden. Numberless omnibus-steamers and fishing boats ply across the bay. On the left, at a distance of a mile or so, is the harbour of Bergen itself. Near the quay can be seen the roofs of the old warehouse erected by the merchants of the Hanseatic League, and also the Lutheran Church built by the Germans, where, until a few years since, German services were still held.

After a walk over the hills we return home ready for supper at eight o'clock. Tea is taken at this meal, but it is not nearly as good as English tea, although it is very expensive owing to the heavy duty on it. After each meal the guests shake hands with the host and hostess, and say "Tak for mate," which is the Norwegian equivalent for "Thanks for your hospitality." After supper we go into the garden or take a little walk until it is dark. When daylight fades the lamps are lit, and fancy work or light amusements are the usual occupations of all until bedtime. Newspapers and books are not so plentiful as in England. The largest Bergen daily does not contain half as much news as a Manchester halfpenny paper. Norwegian ladies, like our Queen, are fond of playing "patience." They are very lively, and are good company. The Norwegians do not keep late hours, and at ten o'clock the candles are lit and everybody retires for the night.

VERA PHILLIPS, Form V.

VALMY.

As a rule the name of Valmy is seldom heard, and people are apt to think the event connected with it one of the small and insignificant occurrences of the French Revolution which may be passed over unnoticed. It is of very great importance, however, in the consideration of the history of the young republic, and the period of the great Napoleonic war, which for so long shook Europe to the very foundations. The French Revolution had broken out in 1789, when the people, freeing themselves from their ancient feudal bonds and oppression, determined to assert their rights once for all, and to set up in their country a fair and equitable government, in the management of which each individual should have his share. These plans were very lofty and generous in theory, but when the men who had broken down all their time-proved institutions came to construct a new code of laws they found it no easy matter to satisfy the demands of every class.

Accordingly great discontent and confusion became general, and the position of the king, as representative of the old order of things, was no longer secure. At length, in August, 1792, the Parisian mob, taking the law into their own hands, deposed the monarch, whom they suspected of having concerted measures with the allied Prussians and Austrians, who were then victoriously passing the French borders en route for Paris. On September 20th, 1792, the invaders at length found themselves face to face with the untrained but enthusiastic French army. The soldiers of France were fighting now not only for their high ideals but also for the safety and freedom of their country. The allies had very little sympathy with the cause they were defending, and showed themselves no match for the small but zealous band of patriots, which drove them in such confusion from the field of Valmy, and forced them to retreat from France.

In this battle is seen the first glimpse of that patriotic courage which was afterwards so distinct a characteristic of the Napoleonic wars. The superabundant energy and restlessness of the nation was turned into a military channel, and thus was constituted that famous army which, with Bonaparte at its head, for so many years held the whole of Europe in submission.

A. SERGEANT, Form VI.

THE WIZARD OF THE NORTH.

About twenty-five or thirty years ago, a writer in the "Cornhill Magazine" seemed surprised and amazed at the opinions which, he said, he had heard whispered darkly by one or two people that Scott was dull. Yet nowadays it is not uncommon for girls and boys (and some grown up people too) to condemn Scott's works as too long and not sufficiently exciting, and anyone who confesses to great pleasure and interest in the Waverley Novels is looked upon as rather an extraordinary person. I think it is far more extraordinary not to enjoy reading them, and their charm lies in the fact that they are so vivid and full of life. Indeed, it is often urged against our great novelist that his novels were too hastily executed, and consequently were carelessly written, but this gives to them that vigour and fleshiness which would have been lost if, as Carlyle suggested, they had been condensed and carefully revised. If, too, we are inclined to believe it, when we are told that he wrote too quickly, we ought to remember that the time actually taken to write a novel is not the whole time spent in its preparation. From a child Scott had been accumulating the knowledge and the thoughts that at last found expression in his works. Born and reared

"In Caledonia, stern and wild,
Meet nurse for a poetic child;
Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,
Land of the mountain and the flood."

Living in the very heart of the land of legend and ballad his imagination was fired, his memory stored and strengthened by all that seemed most suited to his hereditary instincts and his natural genius. The world of Scott is a healthy open-air world; a bustling world, thronged with knights, ladies, friars, archers, and chieftains—a merry land of adventure.

It is said that Scott has no great intellectual heights, or depths, no priceless gems of thought, no spiritual treasures. This so called fault was Scott's great gift, he was exactly the man who was needed at the time when Byron, Pope, Swift, and Keats were writing quantities of impractical sentiment. When atheism and scepticism were rife, Scott presented his world with vigorous healthy pictures, and turned the minds of men away from the unrest and unreality of the time to the simple faith of their fathers. Carlyle says of him, "If no sky-born messenger, heaven looking through his eyes, then neither is it a chimera with his systems, crotchets, cant, and fanaticisms, and last infirmity of noble minds—full of misery, unrest, and illwill, but substantial, peaceable, terrestrial man. Far as the earth is under the heaven does Scott stand below the former sort of character; but high as the cheerful flowery earth is above waste pastures, does he stand above the latter." Then let him live in his own fashion and honour him for that. •

Even if Scott's fame as an author had not lived after him, he should still have been remembered and honoured as having united the sympathies of Scotch and English, who, till that time, had not understood each other. As the fame of "The Great Unknown" increased, and the Waverley Novels were read more and more by both nations, Englishmen, who, until that time had rather despised their northern neighbours, became eager to visit the homes and haunts of their heroes and heroines, so that one great result of Scott's writings was to "unite the Saxon and the Gael." This influence was widespread, and from that time the two nations, hitherto only nominally united, were firmly joined in hearty sympathy.

Scott, as a man, was very much like his novels. This is by no means the case with all writers. Very often, after reading or hearing quoted "priceless gems of thought," or moral reflections, we are surprised and disappointed to find that the author's life is very inconsistent, and that the poet is far removed from the poem. The fame of Byron, Pope, or Swift is cherished in spite of, not on account of their personal characters, but Scott's was one of those rare natures for which we feel not only admiration but affection. He is a very loveable man, and, although he had friends in all ranks of society, he rarely lost one of them. Everyone had heard of his humble companion, faithful Tom Purdie, who used to talk of his master's works as "Our Books," and said the reading of them was the greatest comfort to him, for when he was "off his sleep," as sometimes happened, he had only to take one of the novels, and before he had read two pages it was sure to set him asleep.

Scott's pride in his family gave rise to what had been considered the greatest fault of his life, and what eventually brought about his ruin and death. His ambition and wish to found a family may seem an ignoble ambition, but it was not so, for it was caused, not by a mercenary love of land, but by a reverence for old institutions and family ties. During the most energetic years of manhood, he had laboured with that end in view, but having become involved in commercial transactions, he suddenly found himself, through no fault of his own, with a debt of £117,000. Disdaining to settle his affairs in the manner usually adopted now of compounding with his creditors, he resolved, by superhuman efforts, to so far retrieve his fortune that no man should lose by having trusted him. Though, perhaps after his great losses, the novels were not quite so bright and spirited, yet adversity was needed to bring out the true greatness of the man's character. His strong sense of duty is clearly shown in the way he sacrificed himself to pay off this enormous amount. Burns thought it honourable to refuse payment for his songs, while he begged for his wife and family. But Scott's was a far higher nature. After a hard day's work on the life of Napoleon, he writes "My head aches, my eyes ache, my back aches, and so does my breast, and I am sure my heart aches, and what can duty ask more." Duty, however, in Scott's judgment, did ask more, and was ever urging him to unparalleled exertion. The martyrdom lasted with his days, and if it shortened them, let us remember his own immortal words:—

"Sound, sound the Clarion, fill the pipe,
To all the sensual world proclaim,
One crowded hour of glorious life
Is worth an age without a name."

E. ANDERTON, Lower VI.

BEETLES.

Beetles have a very bad name, perhaps no insects have been less understood than the beetles, no one likes them, and most people think them objectionable creatures. Even Shakspeare, though he could find a compassionate word for the "poor beetle that we tread upon," could not find a kindly word for them. Shakspeare shared the popular belief that beetles are obnoxious, hateful creatures. In the "Tempest" where Caliban reviles Prospero, he invokes " . . . All the charms of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you." In the "Midsummer Night's Dream" when Titania sleeps, her attendant fairies sing—"Beetles black, approach not near." Yet even considered as to the outward appearances, there are no living creatures which are more graceful of form than most beetles, while many are adorned with colours such as no art of man can imitate. It is true that a few species have rather an offensive odour, but there are quite as many which are gifted with a perfume such as can only be obtained from the sweetest flowers. The beetles have four wings, but the hind pair only are used for flight, the front pair being very much thickened, useless for flight, and serving as covers for the hind pair when the insect uses its legs. The life-history is similar to that of other insects. It begins with the egg, which is hatched into a larva, and this after a time turns into a pupa, which in its turn develops into the perfect insect. Beetles are generally classed under two headings—vegetarian and carnivorous. The latter feed on living prey, possess active limbs and powerful jaws, and many species have swift wings.

The Tiger Beetles are a good example of this type. The Green Tiger Beetles look a dull green colour when seen on the ground, but when seen in flight they look a deep metallic blue. It is said that if these beetles are caught and put into a box, they will give out a scent resembling that of sweet-briar, and when in the attitude of flight the quick change of colour is explained, for the outside of the body is a shimmery blue, while the wing cases are a dull green. The Burying Beetles, of which we have many species in England, are a very great help to mankind. They live on the bodies of small animals such as mice, birds, etc : therefore any dead animals left to decay on the ground, which would in time cause fevers, are cleared away by these beetles which we so much despise. The larvæ of these insects are much more active scavengers than the perfect insect. The *Atenchus* is a very interesting beetle, it abounds in Egypt, and was once used as a symbol of the creative powers of the universe, for a rather curious reason. To these beetles the task is given of removing animal refuse, which constitutes the food for their young. It gathers a certain quantity together and works it into a roughly spherical ball, in the centre of which it places an egg. It then finds a soft piece of ground and digs a deep hole with its strong fore-legs ; it then turns the ball into the hole, and in so doing the ball becomes coated with dust, thus making a greater protection for the egg. The Egyptians practically knew the way in which the balls were made, but did not know that an egg was enclosed, and therefore said that the insect had the power of creating its own young, and consequently very quaint treatises have been written on this beetle. The Stag Beetle varies very much in size, some of the race measure about three inches while others are less than an inch in length. The male Stag Beetle has very large jaws, while those of the female are quite small and sharply pointed. These beetles are very easily tamed, and if put in a box with a light cork it is said that they will knock it about as a playful kitten might. No real work has ever been found to be done by the Cockchafer. It is the great enemy of the Agriculturist. Both in its larvæ and perfect condition this insect is exceedingly destructive. It devours the roots of plants and eats up the leaves. The long Horned Beetles, so called because they possess horns, are a very beautiful species and do precisely the same kind of work as the burying beetles in clearing away decaying matter, the only difference is that they dispose of decaying vegetable matter. They give out a very sweet smell resembling that of musk, and it is believed that they have the power to emit or retain the odour at their own pleasure.

I think looking at the work of these creatures, our world purifiers, we ought not to disdain them as we do, or to give them no place in our favour, because if we come to think about them and their use in the world, we find out that they do mankind a very great service.

E. L. WOOSTER, Upper IV.