

power perhaps than the work as a whole. There is a breezy, out-of-door atmosphere pervading some parts of the volume, which contrasts very favorably with the reeking air of too many of the novels printed on this side of the ocean, as well as across the water. While not much can be said for the matter of the volume a more unstinted praise can be bestowed upon the work of the publishers. The illustrations are excellent, and present a pleasing contrast to the miserable wood cuts which deface too many of our books, both poetry and prose, notably Harper's edition of George Eliot's novels.

We have before us also "The Problem of the Poor," by the same author as "Green Apple Boughs." We are glad to say that of this work we are able to form a much more favorable estimate than of the other. The country is flooded with works of fiction, and we can easily dispense with mediocre works in this line, but an earnest attempt to solve the problems inevitably suggested by the condition of the poor, cannot be superfluous. The question, what is to become of the masses, is the most important which modern civilization has to solve. It is more important than the temperance question, more important than civil service reform, because it is infinitely more difficult of solution than either. While the present work is no solution to the problem—as no single work can be expected to be—yet it attacks the subject in the proper spirit, and is full of excellent thoughts and hints on the matter. The problem is stated and treated in a concrete way throughout, the book largely consisting of an account of personal labors and efforts as well as particular methods and remedies. Indeed the work is more than half story, and calculated to amuse those who read it for no higher reason. Never was valuable matter more entertainingly put. "Industrial education" seems to the author the most efficient remedy for the disease of the poor. The book is neatly bound and printed, and the low price (ninety cents) places it within easy reach of all.

Hiawatha has been translated into Greek and published in Leipzig.

COMMUNICATION.

Although "much has been said and much written during the past year about the color line in Oberlin," we venture a few remarks upon the subject as viewed by those negro students who love their Alma Mater and revere her principles.

We think that the faculty, as a whole, maintain the same principles upon which the institution was founded fifty years ago.

Oberlin's position toward the poor student is hardly the same. Formerly the college was benevolently dismissed during the winter, when the student's expenses were higher, and he was enabled to earn money for his support during the remainder of the school year.

It is, to a great extent, a different class of students and a different class of people which have made the color line more distinct. But whatever its cause, if it continues as the old professors pass away and new ones take their place, who can tell to what it may lead?

The REVIEW apprehended some danger of such a feeling extending to the class room. We see nothing to prevent it, if there is any appearance of such a feeling among teachers. And we are constrained to say that that there must be, for otherwise what prompted one of the professors to object to a white and colored student rooming together, when each of the students was perfectly satisfied?

The assertion that it is the wealthier class of students who are more prejudiced to color seems to us false. Wealth is generally supposed to bring with it refinement. It is certainly not the refined man or woman who slights a person on account of race or color. Even in the South during slavery it was a noticeable fact that the wealthier class were far more humane than the so-called "poor whites." A few years ago, before the election of speakers for the Oratorical Contest, some of the students made an agreement not to vote for a man simply because he was a negro. Then the wealthy and more refined students were those who vigorously opposed such an unfair scheme and exposed the plot. Let us not then stigmatize the wealthy as those who have the least refinement.

Twenty years ago a respectable negro student could find board at any private boarding house in town. Can he now? This is the fault of the students and citizens. But the Ladies' Hall belongs to the Institution. It should be governed by the principles of the Institution. It should be known that those who are in authority there will maintain those principles at any hazard. Objections similar to those made this year have been made before, but they have not been submitted to and the Institution has lost little or nothing by it.

The students are not the ones to rule there. They have a chance to show prejudice outside, in the class room, in class elections and in various little ways. Many in the outside world think that prejudice is a thing unknown in Oberlin. We know that education is a refining influence, since it is more rarely exhibited among the higher classes. Still it is not altogether the new students, but some who by this time should have become imbued with the principles of the place. But what are we to expect from the younger students when a gentleman who is now a theologian refused to sit beside a colored man in the church choir. In fact we have heard from good authority that a theologian complained to the matron because a colored student sat at his table. He will probably go to Africa soon to teach the heathen.

It is true that the faculty cannot change each student's heart, but they can demand that this principle of the Institution shall be carried out in the Ladies' Hall at least; this principle which requires that men of all nations, on an equal footing, regardless of color, shall receive an education here. What other race would be requested to eat at the same table on account of their nationality? We doubt if under such circumstances Irish or German students would ask to sit together as that disgusting article in the *News* claimed. However that may be, there is some difference in being granted a privilege to do something and in being compelled to do it, at least for so slight a cause as having a dark skin.

We expect to endure some slights here, to meet some prejudice, but when it comes to a separate table at the Ladies' Boarding Hall in

liberal, Christian Oberlin, it is more than we ever conceived of. And we are thankful to say that through the decision of our President there is no longer any cause for complaint at the Hall. Although nearly all colleges are now open to colored students there are supposed to be some advantages in studying at Oberlin. We hope that these advantages will increase as only the students can increase them, and that the day will soon dawn when it will not require so much "forbearance" as "brotherly love" and "charity" to tolerate the negroes' presence.

LITERARY NEWS AND OPINION.

Emil Zola, it appears, has written some short tales which are moral enough for a Sunday school paper.

There are now only about forty birthday books in existence. This is quite encouraging.

A biography of George Eliot, the work of a Miss Blind, is now completed.

The beginning of Howell's new serial in the February *Century* made a second edition of that number necessary.

Mr. Freeman's recent papers on America and the Americans will form the matter of a volume soon to be published.

It is quite interesting to be told in the *Independent* that a complete edition of Martin Luther's works is now being published in connection with the four hundredth anniversary of that distinguished Reformer's death. We believe that the anniversary above mentioned will occur in just about sixty years—about the middle of the next century. We know that publishers sometimes make their announcements early, but sixty years in advance is the best thing yet heard of.

MORE FUN FROM THE CLASSICS:—Not long since the members of the New York Medical Club were summoned to attend a regular meeting at Dr. Paine's in the following classic style: "Sciens, Socialite Sobriete, Doctores! Ducum nex mundi nitu Panes; triticum at ait. Expecto meta fumen tu te and eta beta pi. Supper attento uno Dux hamor clam pati, sum parates, homine, ices, jam, etc. Sideror hoc. "Festo resonan flos sole."—*Independent*.

Ann Arbor men had a foot ball meeting a short time since. The *Argonaut* says: "Prettyman will write to Oberlin and learn what they have to offer in the shape of a foot ball team."