

Science. The deficiency here is attributed, in part, to the text-book, but we rather think the way in which these subjects are taught is more culpable. With no other inspiration than a request to repeat parrot-like the contents outline of a book a student can not be expected to attain other than "ordinary success." A recitation conducted on the *verbatim et literatim* principle is devoid of everything but a display of memory. These branches are successfully taught only where the instructor imparts his knowledge in a manner that will rouse and energize his pupils. He must "scorn 'cramming,' so prevalent in our day, and convert the knowledge he imparts into a lever, to lift, exercise and strengthen the growing minds committed to his care."

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DRIFTING.

We floated once on idle tides
Which lay beneath the rising sun,
Than lovers there were none besides
That happy sunshine shone upon.

Spring life was in the earth and air ;
I felt within my frame strong youth.
I saw her face divinely fair ;
Her heart was love, her soul was truth.

Alack, a day we fell apart :
It gave me sure a bitter pain.
Alas ! that we did fall apart.
My heart doth never cease complain

The sun moves down 'bove sombre waves,
A light from sky and air has fled.
How close the land is marked with graves !
Than men more sweet delights are dead.

I. T. O.

* * The tissues of the life to be
We weave with colors all our own.
And in the field of destiny
We reap as we have sown.

— Whittier.

HOLIDAYS.

Among the most enjoyable occasions in the life of ordinary mortals, students included, are holidays, those oases in life's desert where the weary traveler may enjoy a brief season of refreshment for his further journeying. As mere rests they are very beneficial, especially to those in the whirl and bustle of our American business life, and it is doubtful whether their number might not be increased with advantage.

While we all view these days with pleasant anticipations, we do not often think of the peculiar surroundings of each, of the atmosphere which encloses it and gives it a special influence. Omitting from present view the weekly Christian holiday, the healthful effects of which are invaluable, and omitting also the church festivals—Easter for example—which are not recognized by all Christians, but which probably have, nevertheless, a greater power here than in lands where the state recognizes them, but a state religion deadens the reverential spirit, we find that those which remain are few in number and, with one exception, readily fall into two classes, the moral and the patriotic. The exceptional case, New-Years, is neither Christian nor American but rather heathen in its character, as it was wholly heathen in its origin. Professing no more than to be a season of unmixed jollity, it has been in the country a children's festival chiefly, but in cities a period of carousals which fashionable society sanctioned or at least winked at. Within the past few years, society has looked askance on New-Years dissipation and we may well hope that it will be henceforth a season of pure social joyousness, free from its old barbaric associations.

Christmas, though primarily religious and so not specially American, may rightly be placed with that festival which is most distinctively our own, Thanksgiving, the former proclaiming "peace on earth, good-will to men," and the latter acknowledging the blessings of home, and country. Thanksgiving, the national festival of the