The Register
July 15th 1807
Palms of a Forgotten Age.

It was a strange fact that an isolated reminder of that otherwise long dead and most florid flora was still to be found among the diphorodon days. Away up in the Finne, in a still well-watered and well-rooted valley, there was a glen of palms. There they were—a unique relic of a flora extinct, a remnant of flora seen in the days of the prehistoric Australians. Then Gilze had come upon those tall palm trees, so different from the vegetation of the pastoral districts, and his mind was utterly dumbfounded. Only recently Mr. Robert Stephens had photographed those trees, and the planks which he (the lecturer) now exhibited to the audience were a record of their growth. So long as the seeds fell within that valley the trees grew on through the years. The huts of the Aborigines, and the floods carried them out into the plains they perished. And so some day the palms would be no more than the remnants of the palms.

—Make the Best of It.—

Now what were the causes of this blighting change? First, there had been a general gigantic lowering of the land, cutting off the outlets, so that the great plains swallowed and lost them. Then that great basin of land containing the great lakes has developed a greater heat and dryness, which reacted on the meteorological conditions and the vegetation. All these circumstances had absorbed the moisture in the land, and more and more the land was made barren. These factors could not be restored to life, and the life they could not be restored to, as they were not as great as that made by the best of it. Let them philosophically take the fate meted out to them, and try to make the best of it. Nature had given to the present inhabitants of the country a mixture of fertility and want, and if they strive the balance—be thankful.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

It is almost impossible definitely to trace the founder of the first scholar ship in the world, but there is no definite attempt to do so, and the general belief is that it was bestowed by a benevolent being, or some poor students, to whom otherwise the opportunity to rise to eminence would never have come. With the advent of free Universities is the raison d'être of scholarships leading to the higher education will have disappeared. In the meantime there is a tendency to multiply them, the students of a decade or so ago having had far fewer opportunities than are now open for obtaining such assistance. At that time the number of students who could or would apply was enormous, and the extension of educational opportuni ties to classes of society hitherto unassisted by the development of the educational idea has assisted in that increase. Even so, some educators still maintain that scholarships are not so advantageous as was hoped to the people they were intended to benefit. There is a want of appreciation, both on the part of the parents and the students, in attaching to scholarships, and often the only applicants are those of parents who can well afford to pay for higher education. There are, on the other hand, so many scholarships offered by schools and colleges to draw attention to a particular institution rather than as a reward for the deserving poor scholar, that very few educational establishments can afford to neglect this factor of their business. This leads to confusion and strife for the specific principles of scholarships. In a fascinating address to a Teachers' Congress some years ago, Mr. A. J. Balfour said that one
The most tragic resolutions of the most prominent and destructive of the highest knowledge in a manner which leaves empty and empty because of the needs of wealth or other opportunity for its development. This tragedy was that the foundation of scholarships meant, as far as possible, to prevent competitive examinations having been, and apparently are likely to remain, the only means of establishing the merit of competitors. But the winner of a scholarship is far more esteemed in these days as a contributor to the advancement of science and general education than the sum of his salary and on just the ground of intellectual merit. Without reference to the pecuniary circumstances of applicants, the emoluments, as distinct from the status, of the scholarship should not be enjoyed by the sons of wealthy parents. The problem still remains a serious one for educationalists. Dealing with the subject from the practical point of view of a professor in close touch with the holders of various scholarships, the following remarks were made:

"Really, to profit by his course, a student must mix on equal terms with his fellows. This is impossible to the poor student whose allowance is not supplemented by an endowment fund or from a private purse. The idea that every essential is provided by a scholarship which pays the University fees, or even by one which includes the necessary books, is fallacious. The idea of a scholarship is erroneous. The most important scholar will be at a disadvantage if forced to appear among his fellows badly dressed, or is alienated from the varied interests which bring his co-workers into association for social purposes because he cannot afford to pay for the indulgence.

The parents of poor students, in their own sheltered and limited sphere, fail to realize the humiliations through which such a scholar has to pass in his University.

Many have got through on the experience with credit, but it is a fatal drawback to students who to many scholarships should be established with so little regard for the indirect responsibilities entailed upon their holders. The same objection will apply to the establishment of free Universities, with the additional drawback that the poorer classes will be unable to supply many brilliant scholars to one University even if they possess them, because the student does not acquire an independence in a year or two. It is a matter of time when a poor family needs the monetary assistance of its members, who are thus compelled to relinquish their educational early to enter employments. There are already endowments to sup
Pleasant scholarships by paying for clothes, board, and subscriptions for poor students; but the problem of compensation to the poor family for the loss of monetary services while a brilliant son or daughter may be trained for the benefit of himself and his fellows remains yet to be solved.

Administrator
July 16, 1914

EDUCATION AND CONSERVATISM.

The headmaster of St. Peter's College (Canon Girdestone) is a conservative. At least, he told the members of the Scholars' Association at their annual dinner on Wednesday evening, and from his biting criticism of the many things that were wrong with everything that was beautiful and had been used up, for whenever they got anything new they almost invariably got something ugly. He might mention some of the latest productions of art as an instance that—(laughter)—or the latest developments in terpsichorean accessories, or the latest styles of dress. When he had seen that there had come ugliness, but education had remained just the same, because the boy was the same. He believed in the present had been a disaster of St. Peter's College (laugh), and it was the greatest pleasure to him—for he was a conservative to the bottom of his heart and hated things that were new—that in handing boys he was dealing with something that was as old as nature. He was dealing with human nature; without the cramping veils of artificiality. Boys were perfectly natural, it was delightful to have anything to do with them. They had not yet been educated to believe that ugly things were beautiful. They just believed what they believed, and said it without hesitation, and that candor and naturalness were the most charming and refreshing things in the world. It would be by some people that education had undergone many changes in common with everything else, but that was not so. There were certainly faddish in education, who should never have been schoolmasters; but the education might have its rages and its tangos they could not leave.

A boy was no matter in what century he was born, and a man, to be a good schoolmaster, must be conservative to the backbone.