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COMMERCIALIZATION OF LITERATURE

Has the thought ever occurred to youths of today why writers of literature have given forth such soul-stirring thoughts to the world?

If perchance you should make a study of the world's greatest authors or read the pages of their books, you would find the astounding fact that wealth has influenced literature to a great extent. By the word wealth I do not mean the best writers were exactly wealthy, but the lack of wealth spurred writers on to turn out books rapidly.

William Shakespeare, although not a person endowed richly with money when beginning his period of authorship, worked a short while in apprenticeship in the theatres of his day. Here the theatre aided him by furnishing a market for his plays. But this failed, however, to meet his expenses which were a necessity in the life he was portraying, as more money was necessary for his needs as a playwright. As his expenses rose his plays became more numerous. Why? Because of his lack of funds. Some leading critics say the more plays Shakespeare turned out, the more plays lacked his best style.

Paul Laurence Dunbar was a man endowed with the gift of imagination and rhythm. In early childhood he began to express himself through poetry. Although he had the touch of genius, the hard struggle for existence caused by his father's death drove him to support his mother. Though he did odd

jobs around the hotels, he hoped for better things than mere menial employment. After he had obtained an education, on account of his financial condition, he, too, resorted to his natural abilities to support his mother. Again, you see the lack of funds effecting the life of a great writer.

Sir Walter Scott, one of the great novelists of the nineteenth century suffered a reverse in fortune, as the result of a publishing firm going into bankruptcy of which he was a silent partner. This sudden turn of business affairs along with other things would have completely discouraged an ordinary man. So well did Scott redouble his energy in turning out novels to meet his debts that he has often been called the "Wizard of the North."

Thus, we see, that these great writers spurred on by the lack of funds to turn out books by the wholesale, have resulted in what is called the "commercialization of literature."

Trudelle Wimbush, '28.

CAMPUS NEWS

The seventh grade geography class under Miss J. E. Alston brought to us a real treat in the form of a debate Dec. 14, during the chapel hour. In the absence of Miss Alston, Alice Moran, Normal '29, presided. The question was, "Resolved: That the progress of South America is due more to the character of the people than to the land in which they live." Those representing the affirmative were, Gladys Smithwick and Johnola Staton; the negative were, James Jackson and James Lowery. The decision of the judges was unanimous in favor of the affirmative.

On Tuesday, Dec. 18, the fifth grade eager to show what they could do came to chapel with a debate. The question was, "Resolved: That Brazil afforded better opportunities for the development of young people than Argentina. Elizabeth Bias and Charles Bowser represented the affirmative while Daniel Bowser and Katherine Pruden represented the negative. Bernice Bias, Normal, '29, acted as chairman. The debate was very interesting as some very good material was got by the pupils. The decision of the judges was 2-1 in favor of the affirmative.

Sunday night, Dec. 16, at 6:30, a Christmas pageant, "The Nativity," was given in the school auditorium by some of the members of the Y. W. C. A. and the Y. M. C. A. The program, directed by Misses E. J. Lewis and W. M. King was an impressive unfolding of the Christmas story.

Wednesday night, Dec. 19, the Y. W. C. A., gave the last social of the season in the Y. W. C. A. room in Symera Hall. A large number were present and an enjoyable evening was spent. The special features were: A magic trick performed by Martha Cobb, a riddle contest, in which Katie Speller received the prize, and a solo contest. The participants in the solo contest were: Katie Jones, Araminta Ransome, Louise Maultsby, and Donnie Hill. The contest was very interesting but very hard to judge. The judges finally decided that the prizes should be awarded as follows: