

"John Keats," and that it has gratified me highly to be addressed by you in consequence of your reading my essay "On the Vicissitudes of Keats's Fame." As I had the happiness to meet his sister here (Madam d'Llanos) — after forty-five years! — I trust it may be also my happiness to meet some others of his family in Rome, where I am likely to remain all my life, and where I first came in his dear company in November, 1820, and on his account. Altho' on my part so mad a thing as it seemed at the time, and was pronounced so by most of my friends, yet it was the best, and perhaps the only, step to insure my artistic career, which no doubt was watched and blessed by this dear spirit, for I remained twenty years without returning to England, and during that time the patrons I most valued came to me as the "friends of Keats." These have remained faithful to me and to mine, no doubt inspired by the revered name of the poet. The success of my family (three sons and three daughters) has turned on this. The chief of these patrons I may mention is the present Chancellor of the Exchequer (William Gladstone).

At this moment I only know of two personal friends of the poet besides myself to be now living — Mr. Charles Cowden Clarke, who is at Genoa (Villa Novello, Strada alla Cava, Genoa), and Mr. John Taylor (the publisher) in London.

It may be also that friends of yours [may] chance to be visiting Rome, and in that case I beg you to give them a note to me.

This quiet note I fear may find you in the midst of war's misery, if it ever finds you at all, and I hope it may be the means of procuring me another dear letter from you or yours to

Yours most truly,

JOSEPH SEVERN.

For Mrs. Speed.
[Louisville, Ky.]

Nordau's "Degeneration": An Exchange of Compliments.

THE letters which follow are printed at the request of Professor Lombroso, and by permission of Dr. Nordau, and refer to the article by the former in the present number.—EDITOR.

I.

[TURIN, June 7, 1895.]

DEAR NORDAU: I have been earnestly pressed by the American reviews to publish an article on your great work "Degeneration." Bound to you by gratitude and by immense admiration, I at once accepted; but in the course of composition I could not help perceiving that we differ much on several points, above all as to what genius is: which, as I think, is often insane, without by insanity losing its value. I do not wish, however, to disturb those very sweet and delicate relations which exist between us, but which cannot make me forget the love of truth. The article is almost finished, but speak the word, and it shall be burned.

Your most devoted
To DR. MAX NORDAU. CESARE LOMBROSO.

II.

PARIS, June 9, 1895.

DEAR AND ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER: Your letter of the 7th inst. has touched me profoundly. I thank you

with all my heart. Not send your article! Burn it! You must not think of such a thing! It would be a crime to deprive the world of one of your studies, even though I should suffer from it.

Assuredly I am disquieted when you inform me of a divergence of opinion between you and me; for in that case I should suspect myself of being mistaken, and I would so much rather (laugh at my naïveté) be sure of being right. But as the truth is my supreme aim, I would a thousand times prefer to be set right by you than to continue in an error.

I know very well that all the idiots of the two hemispheres will plume themselves, after your article appears; while taking care not to specify the point which divides us, they will audaciously generalize, and cry: "Behold the disciple disowned by him whom he has proclaimed his master! Demolished is the foundation on which rested the whole edifice! Now nothing is left of it but a heap of shapeless rubbish." But what of that? Fair-minded men will nevertheless know how to take an equitable view of the bearing of your criticism and of your reservations.

Now I am bound to believe that even in that which seems to divide us we are not so much at variance as would appear: I do not at all deny the influence of the insane pseudo-genius. I see too well, alas! how great this influence is; but I doubt if it is salutary and evolutive. I believe that Wagner in creating impressionist works, and also on account of them, has interrupted and falsified the natural evolution of the opera, perhaps of music in general, and that this art will not resume its normal development until the Wagnerian episode [*Pépisode Wagnerien*] shall have been eliminated. Also I do not believe for an instant that the morbid humanitarian emotionality of Tolstoi has produced any useful result whatever. This emotionality inspires in Tolstoi ideas and projects that are contrary to progress, besides mysticism and hatred of science. I have never denied his talent as a novelist; but even that talent is made up of morbid hyperesthesia and emotional gigantism.

Once more, thanks; and believe me, dear and illustrious master, your entirely devoted

M. NORDAU.

An American School in Rome.

ON October 15 an American School will be instituted in Rome in charming quarters on the Pincian Hill. This latest enterprise of America in the Old World will encourage the study by Americans of the archæology, art, literature, and history of Italy. The plan was originated by archæologists and Latinists at a meeting in Philadelphia held during the past winter, and at this meeting, under the auspices of the Archæological Institute of America, a committee of three was appointed to ascertain whether it was feasible to establish a school at Rome. This committee, consisting of Professors W. G. Hale of the University of Chicago, Minton Warren of Johns Hopkins University, and the writer, representing Princeton, decided, in order to secure a wide interest and support, to invite other men to join the committee, until nearly fifty colleges and universities, and more than that number of cities, in every part of the United States were represented, while a strong section of the committee was established in

Rome itself. On account of the enthusiasm with which the project was welcomed, the committee determined to open the School, if possible, this autumn. There was so short a time for organization that no attempt was made to obtain a permanent endowment, but only a fund sufficient to carry on the school for at least three years. The work of raising the endowment will be undertaken during these years, and if the responses are as generous as they have been to the appeal for the temporary fund, there is good hope that the School will become a permanent institution. Chicago and Baltimore have been most generous, and Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland, and Washington have given freely.

When the Council of the Archæological Institute held its annual meeting in May its support of the proposed plan was secured, and, with prospects thus strengthened, the General Managing Committee of the School was called together on May 18. It gave the School a permanent organization, and decided, for the sake of uniformity with the Athens School, that its name should be the "American School of Classical Studies in Rome," while at the same time it decided to include post-classical studies of the Early-Christian, Medieval, and Early-Renaissance periods.

One of the incentives to an immediate organization was the unique opportunity of securing a residence which seemed made for the purpose. Every visitor to Rome in the old days before the Eternal City was ruined by reconstruction will remember one of the most beautiful of its numerous villas, the Ludovisi Villa on the Pincian Hill. The *Piano Regolatore*, or official plan, which aims at obliterating the hills and filling in the dells, and which has made Rome as commonplace as it lies in the power of man to do, laid its hands upon this as upon the other villas that formed the city's fascinating belt of green, leveled it, and converted it into streets. After this the main structure, called from Guercino's famous fresco, the "Casino dell'Aurora," was left solitary. This noble Renaissance building stands, surrounded by grand old trees, in extensive grounds which are buttressed by fortress-like retaining walls, their level being nearly twenty feet above that of the neighboring streets. From these grounds one overlooks the Eternal City and the surrounding Campagna, and in the midst of its groves can feel as far from the city as if one were in the Alban Hills. This building is to be shared not only with the American School of Architecture, established a year ago, but with Schools of Sculpture and Painting which are now in process of organization. The four Schools will probably together form one Academy and will have much in common in their aims and work.

Many archæological and historical schools have already been founded in Rome, from government grants, by Germany, France, Austria, and Italy, and it seems an even more natural center than Athens for a similar American enterprise. The Athens school, now in its thirteenth year, was a direct creation of the Archæological Institute, and was entirely supported by annual contributions from a certain number of colleges. A different plan is being followed for the Roman school, and almost the entire fund has been contributed by private individuals in their own name. In this way there has been no interference with the sources of supply of the School at Athens. These Schools have so much in common that they cannot fail to strengthen

each other and awaken more enthusiasm by their united efforts. It is expected not only that students will go abroad to spend a year at each school, but that many will go from one to the other during a single year's residence, especially those who wish to complete their survey of the classical field.

The School is governed by a general committee of about eighty, with an executive committee of nine members. The chairman is Professor Hale, the secretary is the writer, and the treasurer is Mr. C. C. Cuyler, 44 Pine street, New York. The Director for the coming year will be Professor Hale, and the Associate-director will be the writer. Although the School is open in Rome only from October 15 to June 1, its members are expected to continue their work until August on a plan approved by the directors. The purposes of the School are thus defined in its regulations: "The object of the School is to promote the study of such subjects as (1) Latin literature, as bearing upon customs and institutions; (2) inscriptions in Latin and the dialects; (3) Latin palæography; (4) the topography and antiquities of Rome itself; and (5) the archæology of ancient Italy (Italic, Etruscan, Roman), and of the Early-Christian, Medieval, and Renaissance periods." How far this broad field will actually be covered each year will depend upon circumstances. Although the school is primarily for the study of monuments, it will also encourage original research in cognate fields, and it cannot fail to react most beneficially upon Latin studies in America, giving them new life, and possibly leading to the establishment of independent chairs for the teaching of archæology at our universities.

There will be regular courses of lectures, but most of the work will consist of informal talks at museums, visits to the monuments, and excursions to ancient sites in Etruria and the Roman province, and even as far as Sicily. A large part of the duties of the directors will consist in informal advice and personal assistance to each student in his independent work. We are already certain of a considerable number of advanced students. Three School-fellowships have been awarded, and at least six holders of fellowships at the universities of Chicago, Harvard, and Princeton will go out as members of the School. This number will be increased by several graduate students, who will be in Rome for the entire year, and by others who will stay for only a part of the season.

Such study as the School in Rome will promote is extremely broad in its scope. Italy is not only the center for the study of Etruscan and Roman antiquities and history; it is superior even to Greece in the material it affords for the study of Greek architecture, and is hardly inferior to it for giving the student an adequate idea of the development of Greek sculpture. Where else than in Rome can we realize so vividly the Early-Christian period in all its phases? Where outside of Italy can we find so full a series of monuments of Byzantine art? For the Middle Ages, France alone surpasses Italy in architecture and sculpture, and of course for painting, and for all the phases of the early Renaissance, which our School includes in its work, Italy is incomparable.

More remains to be accomplished in the exploration of ancient Italian sites than is usually realized, and we hope to share in the work of discovering new monu-

ments. Even more remains to be done in classifying and making known already existing monuments. Looking to the effect upon our own country, we must feel that American workers need to be brought into vivifying contact with the realities of the past in order to avoid the dangers of pedantry and book-learning; and if there be one thing more than another that as a people we need, it is a general appreciation of art. Undoubtedly, the Roman school, if it be assisted in its development by our public-spirited men and women, will be an active agent in bringing about a change for the better.

PRINCETON COLLEGE.

A. L. Frothingham, Jr.

A New Suffrage Qualification.

THE last definition of the franchise, made by the people of Utah in their new State constitution, records a phase of the evolution of American democracy which promises to conserve the State, by giving the right to vote and to hold office to all citizens of the United States of twenty-one years of age and upward who have resided in the State one year, in the county four months, and in the precinct sixty days preceding any election. This grant of universal suffrage is limited, however, by a condition which is substantially a re-enactment of an electoral qualification generally applied during the colonial period and during the last quarter of the eighteenth century in all the States except Pennsylvania, but gradually abandoned, until it disappeared, about 1835. Speaking of the Commonwealths as a whole, until this time the voter was required to be a freeholder. The democratic renaissance which burst upon the country with the coming into power of Andrew Jackson and his supporters was chiefly characterized by the speedy abolition of long prevailing electoral qualifications: a long term of residence and a property qualification; the religious qualifications having been practically abandoned a generation earlier.

The limitation on universal suffrage proposed in Utah restricts the right to vote any "debt in excess of the taxes for the current year" in any county, city, town, or village of the State, by requiring that such increase in indebtedness must first have been submitted as a proposition to such qualified electors as have paid a property tax, for one year preceding, in the subdivision of the State in which the debt is proposed; and a majority of these taxpaying electors must have given their votes in its favor.

This limitation, therefore, is in the nature of an electoral referendum, and is the first instance of its application and formal inclusion in an American State constitution.

The chief complaint made against universal suffrage is by the owners of real-estate. Citizens who support government, chiefly local government, are out-voted by the landless and the non-taxpayers. Partly on account of this constitutional assignment of a man's land into the political care of the multitude of voters who own no real estate, wealth in this country has been deflected from one of its normal courses,—investment in real estate,—and has multiplied multifariously as personal property: and chiefly in order to escape the mulct which an irresponsible part of the electorate, often comprising the majority of voters, may at will put upon it. An irresponsible electorate has increased local indebt-

edness in this country so seriously as to empty the population of the smaller towns into the great cities: the rate of taxation in boroughs, towns, and small cities being often higher than that in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburg, St. Louis, New Orleans, or San Francisco. Local indebtedness, except in rare instances, does not provide as many conveniences for citizens of these smaller corporations as are to be enjoyed in the large cities. Nor is such discrimination against freeholders limited to the citizens of incorporated communities of small size; it is rapidly becoming characteristic of the rural communities. The rates of taxation there are as often increased by the vote of non-freeholders, especially in later years, as in the villages. It is now a luxury in this country to own a farm. The better roads, demanded by rural economy, must be made chiefly at the expense of the owners of farms, and the recent reformation of highways demanded by that various power "the traveling public" means virtually that these better highways are to be voted by non-taxpayers in various districts.

The limitation on universal franchise proposed in Utah is the wisest yet made in this country. Democracy in America is negatively altruistic in the matter of contracting public debts. More than one hundred and fifty State constitutions have been made in this country, and in their franchise provisions they have steadily had in view the rights, the pleasures, the conveniences of non-freeholders. There has been an increasingly liberal interpretation of one of Franklin's dicta, "The whole of one man is as dear to him as the whole of another"; and of Jefferson's, "All men are created equal." The equality practically won, however, makes the taxpayer and the freeholder pay the bills, while the number of non-taxpayers and non-freeholders has increased in larger ratio than that of the owners of land. Even the mild effort in some States to collect a little financial support from non-taxpayers and non-freeholders by levying a poll-tax upon them has proved highly unpopular, and has been abandoned save in four Commonwealths.

The Utah limitation on the franchise conforms with all the equities of civil administration. Its practical operation will be observed closely, and if it saves the new State from being wrecked by local indebtedness, it will undoubtedly become a precedent for the new State constitutions of the twentieth century.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Francis N. Thorpe.

Old Dutch Masters.

JAN VERMEER OF DELFT (1632-75).

THE little that we know respecting this extraordinary artist, long since neglected by historians, but now restored to the honor he deserves, we owe to the researches of a French critic, M. Thoré, who, under the assumed title of W. Bürger, wrote an interesting work on the museums of Holland. Vermeer was born at Delft in 1632, and is believed to have been a pupil of Karel Fabritius (one of the numerous progeny of Rembrandt). Fabritius dying early, Vermeer, it is said, proceeded to Amsterdam to visit the studio of Rembrandt, where he rapidly completed his education as an artist. He had been elected a master-painter in his