have visited this island and left their portraits with signatures affixed. Among these were those of Gen. Grant and Gen. Sherman. Before leaving this room we were asked to register our names, this being the custom with every visitor.

On our way down-stairs we noticed the odor of coffee, and on entering the kitchen, we found a monk in the act of roasting it. Next to this room is the dining-room, with very long tables, and in the center is a kind of pulpit, somewhat raised from the floor. We inquired the purpose of this in the dining-room, and were told that during the time of eating no talking was allowed, and every one was obliged to listen to the reading of the Bible.

In going to the next building we passed through a small vineyard and fig orchard, and were lucky enough to be there in the time of ripe grapes and figs, which were indeed a treat. The next and last building which we entered contained a large printing-room, where books and pamphlets are printed in all languages for the benefit of the students and those visitors who may wish to buy them. Upon asking permission to see some of these books, we were conducted to a small adjoining room which was completely packed with printed matter. Here also could be purchased very ancient books, and all kinds of Turkish ware, such as silks and laces, or even rugs, and one could be very sure that these were genuine.

The monks spend most of their time either in writing for print or in educating the boys. They are subject to one head-monk, who resides in Armenia, and has the power of sending them wherever he wishes. W. H. G.

The Miners' Excursion.

On Monday, November 23d, a party consisting of the fourth-year miners and two of the third-year class, accompanied by Prof. Richards, left the Fitchburg Railroad station for a three days' excursion to some mines in the western part of this State and in New York. It was raining hard when we left Boston, but a few miles out of the city it became snow; and as the storm kept increasing the farther west we went, the prospect of our enjoying a sleigh-ride seemed good. Our expectation, however, was not fulfilled.

We arrived at Charlemont at 12 M., that being the nearest station to our first destination — the Davis pyrite mine, at Rowe. On account of some misunderstanding, the man who was to drive us to the mine had not provided sufficient accommodation. After a dreary wait of an hour, we succeeded in procuring a second team, and started upon a six-mile drive through the snow-storm. We were received at the mine very courteously by the superintendent, and visited the workings. The pyrite vein was from ten to twenty feet wide, and the ore is taken out by underhand stoping.

We left Charlemont at 7.30 P. M., and arrived at Troy at 9.30. The next morning we visited the Albany and Renssalaer Iron and Steel Company's works, and witnessed the operations of the rolling-mill and the Bessemer-steel department. We next went to the Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute, but were unable to go all through its buildings, on account of our limited time.

We started for Brewster at 1.30 P. M., and arrived there at 6.30. Early the next morning we proceeded to the Tilly Foster iron mine, and were conducted through the workings by the engineer, Mr. Parker, Columbia, '80. Our attention was particularly called to the new system, attempted at this mine, of supporting the hanging wall by concrete pillars, and then removing the old pillars of ore. Two hundred thousand tons of ore are to be opened up in this way.

We arrived back at Brewster at noon, and the party broke up. The sun did not shine once during our trip; but notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, it was a most successful one, and much valuable information was gained.

Young Housewife: "Mr. Brown, how do you sell your chickens?"
Dealer: "Sixty cents a pound, ma'am."
Young Housewife (vaguely): "Ah, and about how many are there in a pound, please?"