Her Answer

(TO AN APPEAL.)

O student, when working and sighing,
Surrounded by volumes a score,
Think of the ones who are wooing and striving
For the same as thou strivest for.

They seize me so blushing and willing,
And steal my susceptible heart,
I yield to them, laughing and sighing,
With stereotyped feminine art.

I write this regretting and fearing;
Oh! don't let it end your career;
No longer I'm trusting and loving,
But,—but 'only your friend,' my dear.

LAURENS.

The Trial of the Pyx.

Section 3,547 of the Revised Statutes of the United States provides as follow:

To secure a due conformity in the gold and silver coins to their respective standards of fineness and weight, the Judge of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Assayer of the Assay Office at New York, and such other persons as the President shall, from time to time, designate, shall meet as Assay Commissioners at the Mint in Philadelphia, to examine and test, in the presence of the Director of the Mint, the fineness and weight of the coins reserved by the several mints for this purpose, on the second Wednesday of February, annually.

In accordance therewith, the Commissioners appointed by the President to examine the Coinage of the year 1885, met at the Mint in Philadelphia, February 10th, of this year. There were present, besides the ex-officio members prescribed by law, citizens from Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Colorado, Arizona, and California, including many experts in assaying.

Judge Butler presided at the formal meeting of the Commissioners, at which the letter of appointment by the President was read, and the duties of the Commissioners explained.

A small box, with two locks, containing the standard weights and the gold and silver of absolute purity, was opened by the Judge and the Superintendent of the Mint (by separate keys, which always remain respectively in their possession), and presented to the Commissioners; who, thus equipped with accurate standards, were then ready to go to work. The principle on which the coinage is tested is perhaps best described in the words of Section 3,539 of the Revised Statutes, which is as follows:

At every delivery of coins made by the coiner to a superintendent, it shall be the duty of such superintendent, in the presence of the assayer, to take indiscriminately a certain number of pieces of each variety for the annual trial of coins; the number for gold coins being not less than one piece for each one thousand pieces, or any fractional part of one thousand pieces delivered; and for silver coins, one piece for each two thousand pieces, or any fractional part of two thousand pieces delivered. The pieces so taken shall be carefully sealed up in an envelope, properly labeled, stating the date of delivery, and number, and denomination of the pieces inclosed, and the amount of the delivery from which they are taken. These sealed parcels containing the reserved pieces shall be deposited in a pyx, designated for the purpose at each Mint, which shall be kept under the joint care of the superintendent and assayer, and be so secure that neither can have access to its contents without the presence of the other; and the reserved pieces, in their sealed envelopes, from the coinage at each Mint, shall be transmitted quarterly to the Mint at Philadelphia. A record shall also be kept at the same time of the number and denomination of the pieces so taken for the annual trial of coins, and of the number and denomination of the pieces represented by them and so delivered, a copy of which record shall be transmitted quarterly to the Director of the Mint.

The verification of the contents of the packages is simply a matter of accurate counting; and after this is finished, a few coins are taken at random from each package and given to the committee on weighing, and others to the committee on assaying. A careful record is kept of all the coins thus received by the committees, and the coins themselves are put in envelopes, which are sealed, and the contents noted on the back to correspond with the record. In addition to the single coins thus set apart for exam-