receiving either admiration or so much as misunderstanding on the part of the latter; for we will venture to say, that without considerable effort the greater number of these pages cannot even be misunderstood; they will simply present to the superficial reader a face of perfect inscrutability." He compares the reading of the new book to "walking down a long and dark passage, with here and there, in an embrasure, a window commanding a fine view."

Well, though careless and superficial reading is not in any case to be commended, the great objection to the reading of Browning seems to be that life is too short, and that there are so many valuable books that have the merit of intelligibility. Obscurity, whether voluntary or involuntary, is surely not a certain mark of genius, nor can a poet be called exactly perfect who "often leaves it a matter of guess-work to whom his various pronouns refer." It would seem to be well for us commonplace outsiders to wait for the elucidations of the pundits of the various Browning Societies before purchasing the new volume. "Mr. Browning's translator," says our critic, "if this work should ever be translated into a foreign language, will come upon difficulties to which even the difficulties of a corrupt chorus in the Agamemnon will be trivial." On the other hand, the critic in the London Academy finds the new volume not obscure, not crabbed, not even rugged,—verse difficult, it is true, but the difficulty is in the matter more than in the manner, and the hard nuts are worth cracking. So widely do the critics differ.

The February number of Macmillan's, besides Dean Church's elucidation of "Sordello,"—let me take the opportunity, in passing, to recommend Dean Church's beautiful Life of St. Anselm, and his little book on Dante—has an amusing story, "Mr. Pulvertof's Equestrian Experiences," by "F. Anstey," as he calls himself. As might be expected in anything from the author of that oddest and funniest of stories, "Vice Versa," there is a certain amount of improbability in the leading incidents here. W. P. A.

Swell No. 1 (pretending to mistake for an usher a rival whom he sees standing in evening dress at the cloak-room door of a theater): "Ah! Have you a programme?"

Swell No. 2 (equal to the occasion): "Thanks, my man; got one from the other fellow."—New York Tribune.

**New England Intercollegiate Press Association.**

The idea of forming such an Association was originated by the Tuftonian, and in response to invitations sent out by the Tuftonian, Harvard Advocate, Tech, and Beacon, about thirty delegates from various colleges met at Young's Hotel on February 22d. The Convention was called to order by Mr. Maulsby, of Tufts. On a motion, Mr. Maulsby was declared permanent chairman, and Mr. Breed, of Wesleyan, permanent secretary. The roll-call which followed showed the following papers represented, and delegates present:—

*The Amherst Student.—Mr. Barry Bulkley, Mr. J. F. Harper.*
*The Bates Student.—S. H. Woodrow.*
*The Bowdoin Orient.—C. C. Choate.*
*The Colby Echo.—W. B. Farr.*
*The Beacon.—A. H. Wilde, E. A. Kimball.*
*The Dartmouth.—F. J. Urquhart.*
*The Dartmouth Lit.—W. D. Quint, J. C. Simpson.*
*The Cadet.—J. B. Lazell.*
*The College Argus.—W. R. Breed.*
*The Yale Courant.—H. L. May.*
*The Yale Lit.—A. F. Gates.*
*The Yale News.—H. B. Ketcham.*
*The Undergraduate.—J. T. Clarke.*

In all, 15 colleges were represented by 34 delegates from 10 journals.

A committee of five, consisting of Messrs. Abbot, Choate, Yates, Simpson, and Melcher were appointed to draw up a constitution.