

or less note, maps and historic scenes. Although some may be found who take different views to Mr. Hight in a few of the minor details, the book is undoubtedly a valuable addition to our historical educational works, and the author is to be sincerely congratulated on the authenticity and correctness of the result of his labours. By special permission from Mr. Rudyard Kipling and his publishers, Mr. Hight has introduced, in portions to suit his subject matter, the well-known poem, "A Song of the English," and certainly nothing more applicable could have been chosen than those ringing lines.

The Registrar of the New Zealand Literary and Historical Association has already received the first contribution for the Premier's Prize Competition for the best story on Gold Mining in New Zealand. As the competition does not close until the first of June, there is ample time for anyone desiring to compete, to do so still. Circulars containing conditions can be had on application by letter to the Registrar of the Association.

This Association's Competitions have been very popular indeed hitherto. Eighty-six competitors fought for the first Story Competition instituted by it; but the fact that the subject is one with which only a limited number of writers are conversant, will naturally reduce the list of competitors this time. But on the other hand, the fascination which surrounds the rush to a new gold field, and the knowledge of all that it means to a young country, should make the best possible material for the story-writer. We may well look forward with pleasure to the appearance of the Prize Story in these columns.

I have often thought that "The Don'ts in Literature" would make

an excellent title for a handbook for the use of aspiring young Colonial writers. The first "Don't" would undoubtedly be "Don't write at all," and in by no means a few cases the book would be worth infinitely more than the published price to the aspirant who only read that one sentence and acted up to it. But I sadly fear that "Don't" would be as little regarded as Punch's historical one on the even more momentous matrimonial question. What the last "Don't" would be, the Lord only knows, for when you come to think seriously of it, there would be such an infinite number of them that one would despair of ever coming to it. Still the idea is a good one. The book would supply a want which has been felt, every editor in the colony can vouch for that. One of the "Don'ts" might well be "Don't imagine for a moment that you can write anything worth reading till you are sure you have not forgotten a single thing that you have learnt about grammar, composition, and punctuation." Don't write to an editor in this strain, for instance: "I have not put in the stops, I understand that there is a man kept in the office to attend to that." This was actually done on one occasion, but the perpetrator's name is strictly not for publication. Amongst the "Don'ts" for those of riper years and attainments might be "Don't imagine the comps in a printing office are as clever and well read as you are, and that they take a pride in seeing at a glance what you mean by some word, invariably more illegibly scrawled than the rest, which does not occur in their ordinary reading."

I have contented myself with a very few brief examples "writ sarcastic;" but many more will occur to anyone who is on friendly enough terms with an editor to spend sufficient time in his sanctum to hear his groans.