

**A CLASS AT
PROFESSOR CIZEK'S.
SUBJECT - "AUTUMN"**

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A Class at Professor Cizek's. Subject - "Autumn" by Francesca M. Wilson

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FRANCESCA M. WILSON

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By
FRANCESCA M. WILSON.

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION FUND.
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H. ZUCKERMANN.

AGED 14.

"SOMETHING INCOMPLETE, IT IS TRUE, BUT FULL OF POETRY."

(See p. 13 of Test.)



Helena Klauzner.

Aged 16 years.

"MONUMENTAL LIKE HER NATIVE MOUNTAINS."

(See p. 13 of Text.)

A CLASS AT PROFESSOR ČIŽEK'S



THERE were from 50 to 60 children, boys and girls, of all ages from 6 to 15. Each one of them had a piece of paper of the same size in front of him, a charcoal pencil, and a box of paints.

It was the day for the "Klassenarbeit"—no choosing of their own medium of expression to-day. Autumn was the subject Cizek proposed to them. It was a fine November day with the sun coming through after a week of mists, and it was a good day, he thought, to do Autumn on. They must represent Autumn by a figure. First they must draw a narrow margin round their paper, and the figure must be big enough for its head to reach the top of the margin, and its feet the bottom, for, as he explained to them afterwards, when discussing their work with them, a picture looks poverty-stricken and miserable when it has only a tiny figure in it, and is mostly empty. The size of the figure was law of the Medes and Persians, but otherwise they might make their Autumn just how they liked.

He wondered how Hans would represent it. Hans said at once he would have an old man with baskets full of apples. Franz, after this suggestion, got on his feet, and said he would have someone blowing very hard at the trees so that the leaves blew off. Elizabeth, a small, determined, little party, with a pale face, and two straight pigtales, declared with great decision that she would have an old man with pots of paint, painting the leaves bright colours.

Cizek approved all these suggestions, declared them each as they came up very fine, and full of possibilities but as the children were already straining at the leash, so to speak, with eagerness to start, he closed the discussion, and told them to begin.

This they did with a speed and a lack of hesitation that surprised me. I could imagine myself toying with my charcoal and paper for half an hour wondering what I was going to do, but they made up their minds at once, and attacked the subject straight away. No doubt the constant encouragement of their Professor has developed this self-confidence and courage in them.

After a few minutes every child had a head on the paper, and some the whole figure. Cizek then reminded them that the figure must exactly fill the whole sheet. Several of them, he said, were starting without remembering this, and were making their heads too big or too small. They ought to sketch out very lightly the whole figure at once, before spending time on any detail. He then wandered up and down, an extraordinarily encouraging presence amongst them with his gentle, whimsical expression—mostly amused by what they were producing, but not in the detached, superior grown-up way, much



Martha Zehenter.

Aged 14 years.

"ONE OF OUR OWN NIEDERÖSTERREICH MAIDENS."
(See p. 12 of Text.)