

BOOKS AND READING

Selections From Great Writers on This Great Subject.

Books and Literature.

The following extract is taken from an address delivered by Henry Van Dyke in New York City in 1900.

"Every one knows what books are. But what is literature? It is the ark on the flood. It is the light on the candlestick. It is the flower among the leaves; the consummation of the plant's vitality, the crown of its beauty, and the treasure-house of its seeds.

"Literature is made up of those human writings which translate the inner meanings of nature and life, in language of distinction and charm, touched with the personality of the author, into artistic forms of permanent interest. The best literature, then, is that which has the deepest significance, the most perfect style, the most vivid individuality, and the most enduring appeal to the human mind and heart."

The Companionship of Books.

"When, one by one, a loving student has gathered from all departments of human learning a multitude of books," says Beecher, "they are not alabaster vases filled with the sweetest perfume of the human soul, but are living creatures; they are companions; they have received the homage of our best hours. We have hung our hearts upon them, and as they sprang from the noblest parts of their authors, they are clothed with the noblest associations of our own lives.

"But this transfiguration refuses itself to those who do not love books, or use them or live with them. It is the scholar almost too poor to buy the candle to light his midnight communion, that enters into this airy commonwealth of the souls of departed men. But the time comes often when the student must leave his books; that is easy. A time comes when his books must leave him; that is bitter indeed. Take the scanty furniture, leave only bread and water on the table, but spare the books. Alas! the destruction of the poor is their poverty."

How many a man in prosperity has found one of his greatest pleasures in books; and to how many more have they proved a solace in poverty and pain, a refuge from care, a pleasant substitute for gloomy thoughts!

Perhaps no other thing has such power as that possessed by books to lift the poor out of his poverty, the wretched out of his misery, to make the burden bearer forget his burden, the sick his suffering, the sorrower his grief, the down-trodden his degradation. They are friends to the lonely, companions to the deserted, joy to the joyless, hope to the hopeless, good cheer to the disheartened, a helper to the helpless. They bring light into darkness, and sunshine into shadow.

We may be poor, socially ostracised, shut out from all association with the great and good, and yet be in the best society in the world, in books. Possessing them we may live in palaces, converse with princes, be familiar with royalty, and associate with the greatest and nobles of all time.

A blessing on the printer's art! Books are the mentors of the heart.

The burning soul, the burdened mind,

In books alone companions find.

—Selected.

Books and Self-Culture.

In the best books great men talk to us, give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours. God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levelers. They give to all who will faithfully use them the society, the spiritual presence, of the best and greatest of our race. No matter how poor I am, no matter though the prosperous for my own time will not enter my obscure dwelling, if the sacred writers will enter will enter and take up their abode under my roof, if Milton will cross my threshold to sing to me of Paradise, and Spenser will open to me the world of imagination and the workings of the human heart, and

Franklin to enrich me with the practical wisdom, I shall not pine for want of intellectual companionship, and I may become a cultivated man though excluded from what is called the best society in the place where I live.

To make this means of culture efficient a man must select good books, such as have been written by right-minded and strong-minded men, real thinkers, who instead of diluting by repetition what others say, have something to say for themselves, and write to give relief to full, earnest souls; and those works must not be skimmed over for amusement, but read with fixed attention and a reverential love of truth. I know how hard it is to some men, especially to those who spend much time in manual labor, to fix attention on books. Let them strive to overcome the difficulty by choosing subjects of deep interest or by reading in company with those whom they love.

Nothing can supply the place of books. They are cheering or soothing companions in solitude, illness, affliction. The wealth of both continents would not compensate for the good they impart. Let every man, if possible, gather some good books under his roof, and obtain access for himself and family to some social library. Almost any luxury should be sacrificed to this.

One of the very interesting features of our times is the multiplication of books, and their distribution through all conditions of society. At a small expense, a man can now possess himself of the most precious treasures of English literature. Books, once confined to a few by their costliness, are now accessible to the multitude; and in this way a change of habits is going on in society, highly favorable to the culture of the people. The diffusion of these silent teachers, books, through the whole community, is to work greater effects than artillery, machinery, and legislation. Its peaceful agency is to supersede stormy revolutions. The culture, which it is to spread, whilst an unspeakable good to the individual, is also to become the stability of nations. —William Ellery Channing.

The Way to Read.

Whatever you read, read with enthusiasm, with energy; read with the whole mind, if you would increase your mental stature. Learn to absorb the mental and the moral life of a book, and assimilate it into your own life. He is the best reader who consumes the most knowledge and converts it into character. Mechanical readers remember words, the husks of things, but digest nothing. They cram their brains but starve their minds. If you are getting the most out of a book, you will feel a capacity for doing things which you never felt before. As few actors conceive the characters they play, so few readers comprehend their authors.

Joseph Cook advised youths always to make notes of their reading. Mr. Cook used the margins of his books for his notes, and marked all of his books very freely, so that every volume in his library became a note book. He advised all young men and young women to keep "commonplace" books. They are a great aid to memory, and enable us to find for future use what we have read. The habit of taking notes of lectures and sermons is excellent.

Reading and thinking are the gymnasium of the mind. The gymnast does not carry away the apparatus from the gymnasium, but the strength and suppleness which the exercise gives him. It is not so much what we carry away from the book and store in memory that is valuable, as the strength and skill we develop through the book we read. Passive reading no more develops the mind than sitting down in a gymnasium will develop the body.

You should bring your mind to the reading of a book, or to the study of any subject, as you take an ax to the grindstone; not for what you get from the stone, but for the sharpening of the ax. While it is true that the facts learned from books are worth more than the dust from the stone, even in much greater ratio is the mind more valuable than the ax.—Selected.

The Choice of Books.

The choice of books is really the choice of our education. The book world is so vast and our time so limited that we should not fritter away the golden hours reading tales of which the very names, as well as the story, will not be remembered again. It is impossible to nourish the mind on mere literary prattle and book-

maker's odds and ends, as it would be to support the health of the body by a frothy diet. A good book is known by this, that it makes us desire to read it over again and by compelling us to reflection. The best thinkers make thinkers of us. The value of our education is to be estimated by our ability to create thought. The best books are those which make for cheer instead of despondency, for courage and hope, which increase our respect for human nature and cure us of the miserable habit of forever whimpering and whining. We should read critically. We should never consent to be a mere bucket to be pumped into. All reading is but noise and rattle if it does not teach us how to separate the wheat from the tares. Let us have pain, poverty, misery in the world rather than stupidity. There is hope for a bad man, but not for a stupid one.—The Augustinian.

Reading Aloud.

There is one form of entertainment and instruction which is within the reach of every home—reading aloud from some good book, magazine and newspaper. It may be a funny story or an interesting romance, a good sermon or a bit of news; anything, everything, so the hearers are edified, instructed or amused.

The one who can read best, at first had better do the reading, the rest sit around and listen. After dinner or in the evening or at any other time when it is convenient. But sooner or later every one should take a turn at the reading.

The world is full of excellent reading magazines. Books are very cheap. The father or mother who has quit reading such things can do no better than to join this reading circle. A dash of sentiment or romance won't hurt anyone.

No more beautiful or inspiring sight can be imagined than a family gathered around in a reading circle, one member reading. It is instructive to the ones who listen and an excellent development to the one who reads. To read well and fluently is the highest form of accomplishment. It can only be acquired by constant practice in reading aloud every day a little.

Where father and mother, daughter and son, laugh together at the same amusing anecdote or are touched with sympathy by some pathetic story—where such things occur happiness and prosperity are always certain to be found.

Better than the theater, more conducive to home fraternity and harmony than the most brilliant lecture—a home reading circle. Read something in which all members are interested. It is a habit very easily formed, the value of which can scarcely be overestimated.—Medical Talk.

Great Fire Disaster.

North Collinwood School, Cleveland, Ohio, March 4, 1908, 167 killed.

Rhoades Opera House, Boyertown, Pa., January 13, 1908, 100 killed.

Steamer General Slocum near Hell Gate, East River, N. Y., June 15, 1904; 500 (mostly women and children) killed.

Iroquois Theater, Chicago, Ill., December 30, 1903, 600 killed.

Charity Bazaar, Paris, France, May, 1897; 300 killed, including the Marquis d'Alencon, sister of the Empress of Austria.

Pike's Opera House, Cincinnati, Ohio, fall of 1893; 200 killed.

Opera Comique, Paris, France, May 25, 1887; 200 killed.

Ring Theater, Vienna, Austria, December 8, 1881; 1,000 killed.

Richmond Theater, Richmond, Va., fall of 1811; 71 killed.

Brooklyn Theater, Brooklyn, N. Y., December, 1876; 293 killed.—Washington Post.

Relief in Five Minutes.

The quick relief which comes with catarrhal troubles from the use of Hyomei is most remarkable. Put a few drops of liquid Hyomei in the little pocket inhaler that comes with every outfit, and before you use the treatment for five minutes you will notice relief from your catarrhal troubles. It imparts a tonic healing effect to the air you breathe, kills all catarrhal germs, stops the poisonous secretions, soothes the irritated mucous membranes and makes a marked improvement in the general health.

So strong is Hood Bros.' belief in the power of Hyomei to cure all catarrhal troubles that with every dollar outfit they give a guarantee to refund the money unless the remedy gives satisfaction.

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"I make it a rule never to recommend medicines until I have myself tried them, as there are a great many in the land that are perfect shams, but having tried your Cure for Colds, sore throat and other inflammatory troubles, I have no hesitation in cordially recommending it to the public, for being used for PNEUMONIA and throat troubles with marvellous effect. It is with pleasure that I give you this testimonial. Anytime in the world that I can say a word for your Company, I will do it without hesitation or reserve."

I think it a blessing to the people—especially the children. I have known of its being used for PNEUMONIA and throat troubles with marvellous effect. It is with pleasure that I give you this testimonial. Anytime in the world that I can say a word for your Company, I will do it without hesitation or reserve.

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Boy's Norfolk Suits—With detachable belt and knickerbocker trousers. They come in the nobby brown patterns only, 14 to 16 years are **3.50**—Sizes 10 to 13 years (they are all wool) are **3.00**

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GULLEY & GULLEY

Clayton, N. C.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

By a mutual agreement I have sold my entire interest in the White Star Co. to Mr. C. M. Kirkman and he resumes all responsibility of said firm and all accounts due said firm are payable to him. Thanking each and all for your support while connected with said firm. This Feb. 18, 1908.

D. H. JONES.

Lynchburg plows are lighter draft. Cotter Stevens Co.



It's always fair weather when you wear Peter's Weatherbird Shoes.

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Clayton, N. C.

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