

THE YOUNG ACADIAN.

Vol. I.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JULY 25, 1883.

No. 5.

Poetry.

AFTER THE RAIN.

I heard a song on the moorland brown,
When the days grew fair and long;
Methought no voice in the noisy town
Could sing so sweet a song:
It was but a herd-boy, all alone,
Alone on the showery plane,
Who sang with a silver trumpet tone,
'The sunshine follows the rain.'

My thoughts turn back to that April day
As I pace the city street;
But the brown, brown moor lies far away
From the tread of weary feet;
Yet ever the song rings clear and loud,
Over and over again,
Above the din of the restless crowd:
'The sunshine follows the rain.'

God knows it is hard to fret and strive
For the gold that soon is spent;
It seems sometimes that the sinners thrive,
While saints are less content!
But He knows too that the clouds will part,
And the hidden path grow plain;
His angels sing to the doubting heart,
'The sunshine follows the rain.'

HOW TO READ PROFITABLY.

A word of advice and direction as to the means of deriving the largest amount of benefit from reading may be acceptable. And we begin by noticing that we should read with *attention*. There are hosts of inattentive readers. They *skim* books, so they say; and if by this means they got all the cream, it might not be an objectionable method; but, in nine cases out of ten, there is no such result. They close the book no wiser than when they opened it. They have made no effort to grasp the meaning of the author. They forget all they read; and all they remember is indistinct, and more likely to lead them into error than guide them into truth. A strong effort of the will to bind down the thoughts to any subject taken in hand, is positively necessary and practically possible—it ought to be done—it may be done—it must be done, if we would read with profit.

Then we must *understand* what we read. Unless we apprehend the sentiments of an author, we are none the wiser. His thoughts are expressed in

his words. We must, therefore, know the meaning of his word. This is easy, for dictionaries are cheap. When we have procured a good dictionary, we should study it frequently. When we come to an unknown word in any volume we are reading, we must turn to our dictionary, and find out what it means. Never skip the hard words and guess the sense. If there be any *thought* you cannot understand, think it over, turn it round and round, look at it on every side, and never lose the sense of a thought for want of understanding the meaning of words.

It is an excellent plan to commit portions of what we read to *memory*. We have memories, as we have hands and feet, for *use*. The extent to which our memory can be improved is incalculable. Like the body, its strength depends on exercise. Observe the brawny arm of the smith: it has grown strong and muscular by constant use. It is precisely the same with our mental faculties. In strengthening the memory, the best way is, not to attempt too much at the commencement. Let the first lesson be short: add a little to it every day. Not a single day should be allowed to pass without adding something to our mental store.

Another capital plan is, to read with pencil in hand, and mark the margin of our books for future reference. (This, common integrity teaches us, must only be done with our own books.) It saves time. It more forcibly impresses the mind, and it enables us to judge our past thoughts at a future period—to "talk with our past hours."

It is well to take *extracts*. This is a fine exercise. Writing out a paragraph once is equal to reading it several times over. And then it is important to have a notebook filled with good thoughts, culled from the best authors. Such a volume of extracts is a real treasure; it will furnish a condensed library; and in the process of copying, our style and writings are improved. We attend to paragraphs, capitals, stops—for in extracting we keep our eyes open and follow the printer. Our mode of expression insensibly becomes better. We adopt, without knowing it, a more graceful mode of speech.

It is well to *write* on the subject about which we have been reading. When we put our thoughts on paper, it is like turning our minds inside out. If we want to know what is in a purse, we pour its contents on a table; and then we can readily distinguish the coppers from the silver, and the silver from the gold. Until we have done this, we may mistake farthings for sovereigns. Many a man has persuaded himself that he possessed an abundance of golden thoughts; but, on submitting them to paper, discovered them to be nothing but copper; and

(Continued on 4th page.)