

READ GOOD BOOKS.

How many Christian people there are who take little time to read. They become absorbed in the things of the world ; their minds are filled with thoughts of cattle and swine, farms and merchandise, and they find little time to read the Bible, or other good books, or religious papers. They become exhausted by intense toil, and then sit and doze at night, or spend their time in foolish and idle conversation, instead of storing their minds with living, glowing, gracious thoughts, which may uplift and bless them for usefulness in the world.

"But I have no time to read," says the father. But suppose you have no time to read, *has no one else in the family time to read ? Does not the wife read ? Do not the children read ?* And are there not many things cast in their way, the reading of which will do them evil, rather than good? How many a boy has been started upon the road to ruin by reading the thrilling lies that have come in some periodical or romance. How many a girl has become disgusted with home, and made unhappy, restless, and discontented through reading high-wrought novels which some story-paper brought within the dwelling ; and so she has set sail, without helm or pilot, on a stormy sea, and found only shipwreck and ruin at the end of the voyage.

"Man doth not live by bread alone ;" and is it not the duty of Christian men and women to provide food for the mind as well as for the body? True, "one can borrow books," and so he can borrow bread, and meat, and meal ; but he who lives by borrowing makes a very poor living. True, persons "can take books from the library," if there is one, and that is a very valuable privilege, provided the books are properly selected ; but there are books which should lie on every table,—which are not to be read *once*, and then sent away, but which are to be picked up from time to time, and read as opportunity permits. A half-dozen old, musty, rusty books—such as reports, public documents, and stupid trash, that is hardly worth house-room—tell a sad story about the mental culture of a family. They tell of powers unused, of opportunities neglected, of narrow-minded parents and half-educated children ; and the expense of overcoming these deficiencies in future days will be very much greater than would have

been the cost of the books which would have prevented or remedied them.

Children who are well supplied with dictionaries, cyclopedias, histories, works of reference, and other useful books, will educate themselves unconsciously, and almost without expense, and will learn many things of their own accord in moments which would otherwise be wasted ; and which, if learned in schools, academies, or colleges, would cost ten times as much as the expense of the books would be. Besides, homes are brightened and made attractive by good books, and children stay in such pleasant homes ; while those whose education has been neglected are anxious to get away from home ; and they drift off and fall into all manner of snares and dangers.

Supply your family with good, useful books. Do not expect them to read masses of ancient stupidity ; and do not allow them to read sensational and ungodly trash. Have your eyes open ; and if you do not yourself understand the matter, ask counsel of the wisest and most intelligent people that you know ; then make up your mind, and let your expenditure for wholesome reading matter be as legitimate and as regular as any other expense you may incur.—*Sel.*

The Pope is patronizing America. Not long since there was only one Cardinal in North America. Now there are two. As will be seen from the following reference to the new U. S. Cardinal, Gibbons, one large element in the difference between a Cardinal and other people is the dress. "The Cardinal presently came out of the sacristy in his handsome cappa magna, made especially for him in Rome, and even more becoming than the purple zucchetto of the early part of the day. The train, which measures fully fifteen feet, was carried by three altar boys dressed in red cassocks and white surplices." The reception given to both the new Cardinals shews that too much of our Protestantism is done up in *limp* binding. The government of the United States officially recognized the new dignitary by placing at his disposal for a time a government vessel, that of Quebec, actually voted from its funds the expense of the special messenger who came from Rome to bring the red cap to Cardinal Taschereau.