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**Hints to Borrowers.**

"THE wicked borroweth, and payeth not again."

If thou art borrow'd by a friend,  
Right welcome shall he be,  
To read, to study, not to lend,  
But to return to me:

Not that imparted knowledge doth  
Diminish learning's store,  
But books, I find, if often lent,  
Return to me no more.

READ slowly, pause frequently, think seriously, keep cleanly, return duly, with the corners of the leaves not turned down.

"I'm not one of those selfish elves  
Who keep their treasures to themselves:  
I like to see them kept quite neat,  
But not for moth or worm to eat,  
Thus willingly to any friend  
A book of mine I'll freely lend,  
Hoping they'll mind this good old mean:  
'Return it soon and keep it clean.'"

THE borrower of a book incurs two obligations; the first is to read immediately; the second is to return it as soon as read.—*Murphy.*

We should make the same use of a book that the bee does of a flower: she steals sweets from it, but does not injure it.—*Cotton.*

"MICHAEL BRAY, my book,  
If I it lose, and you it find,  
I pray that you will be so kind  
As to return it to me again,  
And I'll respect you for the same."

"MICHAEL BRAY, his book,  
Wherein he should delight to look,  
And out of it to learn such skill,  
That he may do his Maker's will."

"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting."—*Washington Irving.*

A BOOK may be as great a thing as a battle.—*Dirraeli.*

Books as spectacles to read nature.—*Dryden.*

A BOOK is good company. It is full of conversation without loquacity. It comes to your longing with full instruction, but pursues you never. It is not offended at your absent-mindedness, nor jealous if you turn to other pleasures. It silently serves the soul without recompense, not even for the hire of love. And yet more noble, it seems to pass from itself and to enter the memory, and to hover in a silvery transfiguration there, until the outward book is but a body, and its soul and spirit are flown to you and possess your memory like a spirit.—*H. W. Beecher.*

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