

least of the scenes which the description has already pencilled in his mind.

The fewer well selected books a youth has to begin with the safer he is against loss of time. The most important question at that period of life is not what *shall* I read, but what *need* I read. His care should be to read as *little* and think as *much* as possible : thus he will find what he immediately requires to know, and so make the need the object of his next acquirement in his books. This method tends to education, develops mental power, and makes a cultivated man. A man does not want to be a mere animated book-case, but he wants to have within himself the condensed matter of the book-case. A hurried careless method of reading is one of the chief dangers a student should guard against, and the habit of casting a book aside as soon as read, without pondering over its contents, recalling the argument and refreshing the memory where it failed, is apt to render worthless all the previous effort. Whateley said that writing an analysis or table of contents, or notes, is very important for the study of any one subject. A fact or subject sought out fixes itself more firmly in the memory than most of those passed in the ordinary course of reading. The ever increasing mass of periodical literature tends more and more to the habit of a snatchy mode of perusal, but to a certain extent this has its advantage. A busy man who has not time to turn aside from his own work to the thorough investigation of the topic of the hour may sometimes, in the pages of a magazine, find the case tersely stated by distinguished advocates on both sides, and he may thus discern the main positions of assailant and assailed. A good review of a new work is occasionally afforded by periodical literature. But, to have any real value a review should be read only after the work to which it relates. Distinct from the discriminating reader and progressive student, there is a very large class who are mere devotees of books of any kind, reading, however, chiefly the lighter literature of the day. These become feeble minded, intellectually dissipated and incapable of serious study. This class exists chiefly amongst women, girls and boys, and they become so absorbed in light reading that many of them are ignorant even of the existence of works of standard merit. Men are not so much given to this, but that may be accounted for by their more continuous use of the newspaper, which is to their taste what cheap literature is to the others.