

ON READING.

Never before so many books, some of which may be read with profit, some without profit, and some only to while away a dull afternoon and some to positive injury. Supposing we read nothing that injures, there is no reason why occasionally a book may not be read simply for amusement. The mind is a most complex and delicate piece of machinery, gets wearied at times and out of order, so that by giving it the rest of amusement, it may recover its tone and begin to work again with zest.

Never before so many magazines; of which the same is to be said as of books; but much time is wasted over them, and, therefore, they must be read with discretion.

The great work of the lawyer, if he is to be learned in the law, is with legal books; of the physician with medical books; but if either is to be a good Christian much time is to be given to God's book.

Never before so many books of more or less interest to the pastor and preacher. As we think of the many admirable commentaries, we thank God for them, as well as for all other books that help us to understand better God's book. But they can never take the place of the one Book. We do not wonder at the little spirituality of many pastors as we know how little the Bible is in their hands, how little they study it to learn of God and of his character and of Christ, who is the very image of the Father. We could say much on this topic, but we give place to a few sentences from Canon Liddon, whose words are far weightier than ours.

As we drift along the swift relentless current of time toward the end of life; as days and weeks and months and years follow each other in breathless haste, and we reflect now and then for a moment that at any rate for us, much of this earthly career has passed irrevocably: what are the interests, the thoughts, aye, the books, which really command our attention? What do we read and leave unread? What time do we give to the Bible? No other book, let us be sure of it, can equally avail to prepare us for that which lies before us; for the unknown anxieties and sorrows which are sooner or later the portion of most men and women; for the gradual approach of death; for the passage into the unseen world; for the sight and sounds which then will burst upon us; for the period, be it long or short, of waiting and preparation; for the throne and the face of the Eternal Judge. Looking back from that world, how shall we desire to have the most of our best guide to it! How shall we grudge the hours we have wasted on any—be they thoughts or books or teachers—which belong only to the things of time!—*Southern Churchman.*

The man who knows that he has got a body, but doesn't know that he has got a soul as well as a body is in a sad plight. If he had no soul he would not know that he had a body,

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