

The influence of literature upon mankind is remarkable; "it makes the man." One's reading is usually a fair index of his character. A man is as easily judged by the books he reads as by the company he keeps. The boy who reads deeds of manliness, noble daring and true bravery, feels the spirit of emulation rising in his bosom, prompting him to heroic endeavours after exalted life. On the other hand, all the life and feelings of a youth fascinated by some glowing love romance or tragedy, becomes coloured and shaped by the page he reads.

What a reckoning will those parents be called to make at the bar of God, who have ruined the souls of their children by allowing in their families that cursed "Yellow covered literature" of the day—those exponents of a vitiated taste and a corrupt society, suited to destroy the young for ever—which is being circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land by unscrupulous publishers and news vendors, who—no matter how high their character may stand—are moral pests in the community.

Although many excellent publications are in circulation, and which ought to be daily perused in every family; yet the Bible should be the chief text-book of home-education. Where it is otherwise, parents are unfaithful to their duty. It is the basis of all teaching, revealing "the truth, the way and the life." It is God's testimony and message, and is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," and was written "for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope," and be made "wise unto salvation." "Of all the books ever written, no one contains so instructive, so sublime, and so great a variety, as the Bible. Resolve to read three chapters each day, for one year, and you will find realities there, more wonderful than any pictures of fiction that have been drawn by the finest pencillings of the master hand of the most practical novel writer, who has shone in the dazzling galaxy of ancient or modern literature." The Bible is "a book for the mind, the heart, the conscience, the will and the life." "It is simple, yet grand; mysterious, yet plain; and though from God, it is, nevertheless, within the comprehension of a little child." Timothy knew its divine teachings from his infancy. "You may send your children to school to study other books, from which they may be educated for this world; but in this divine book they study the science of the eternal world." Do you wish to inspire your children with song? What songs so sweet as the songs of Zion? Do you desire them to come under the influence of eloquent oratory? What orations so eloquent as those of the prophets, of Christ, and of his apostles? Do you desire to refine and elevate their souls with beauty and sublimity? In these sacred pages there is a beauty ever fresh, and a sublimity which towers in dazzling radiance far beyond the reach of human genius. What stories so thrilling as the stories of the Bible? What a mine of treasure the Bible unfolds! Here we have history, geography, astronomy, ethics, poetry, biography, geology, the present, past and future scenes of our world combined in one harmonious whole, and depicted in language adapted to the weakest capacity of our nature. Take this grand old book from the family, and woman "will degenerate into a mere conventionalism," marriage into a "civil contract," the spirit of mother will depart;