

LIGHT READING.

This Portean evil assumes a thousand varying forms. It invades the nursery, the Sabbath-school, the family, the college, and the rail-car. Newspapers, magazines, and reviews are made its viaducts; while pamphlets and books become the more permanent repositories of a trashy literature. The love of excitement keeps up a demand, and the love of money keeps up the supply. The consequences, in corrupted morals, debased imaginations, and ruined souls, can only be measured when the realities of the judgment-day shall burst on the deluded victims of a miserable passion, and on the more miserable panders to it.

But some of the fruits of thus "sowing to the wind" are gathered in time. Let us see what they are:

Mental dissipation is one of the certain fruits of the habit of light reading. Application, industry, penetration, manliness of mind, such as thorough mental discipline engenders, all evaporate in the heat of the feverish brain, half maddened by stories of "love and murder." The remark of Dr. Arnold respecting English universities, will hold good here: "Childishness in boys, even of good ability," says he, "seems to be a growing fault; and I do not know to what to ascribe it, except to the great number of exciting books of amusement, like Pickwick, Nickleby, Bentley's Magazine, etc. These completely satisfy all the intellectual appetite of a boy, and leave him totally palled, not only for his regular work, but for literature of all sorts, even for history and poetry."

We have in mind an illustration of this topic, which should serve as a warning to indulgent parents and promising youths. The son of one of our most distinguished statesmen, entered University with brilliant prospects. He was a lad of fine native talent, attractive person and manners, and with rank and fortune to satisfy the highest ambition. His college apartments were splendidly furnished, and every facility afforded him for prosecuting a course of studies fitting him for eminence in any profession of his choice. But the habit of indulging in light reading, formed in the academy, proved his ruin. Piles of the fascinating "yellow-covered literature" were found in his room. The hours that should have been given to study were thus absorbed. His recitations were neglected. Remonstrance was vain; and within a year he was sent away by the officers of the college as a dolt and a nuisance. Perhaps this may be an extreme case; but it illustrates the tendencies of this practice, and leads one to exclaim with Dr. Arnold, "I would rather prefer to send a boy to Van Diemen's Land, where he must work for his bread, than send him to the university to live in luxury," and spend his days in frivolous reading.

Another fruit of this practice is the *love of romantic adventure and the neglect of filial duty*. The tame routine of daily duty becomes as irksome to the light reader, as the pursuits of the farmer or mechanic to the soldier or the sailor. A morbid love of the strange and marvellous, in story and in act, will seek its opportunities of gratification. A run-away match, "spiritual knockings," a murder or a suicide, are the least that will satisfy such a diseased mind. Hence the increase of cases where human and divine law are outraged, and Quixotic adventures entered upon. Only a few weeks since, the papers recorded the pitiful story of the suicide in Massachusetts of a young man and woman—the latter in male attire—from Ohio. The girl, who was well educated and intelligent, fled from her parents; assumed the name of the most depraved French novelist; wandered away with a shoemaker; and ended her days on the Braintree "Common," by the side of her suicide-murderer, with a copy of the most vicious of the novels of her French namesake on her person!

Ye writers, publishers and venders of this

vicious literature, behold your victim! Stand by that stiffened form, and count the gains of your unrighteous calling on that coffin-lid! Read the epitaph penned by the stricken father for the monument of a wayward child—"DELIVERED BY THE WRITINGS OF ——" Go to that desolate home in the West, and listen to the wailing of those parents whose hearts are anguished by your act! Look up to the throne of God, where you must meet your victims and the instruments of their destruction, and the indignation of your righteous Judge. And for the sake of families yet uncontaminated; for the sake of public morals and private virtue; for your own sakes, cease the work of death in which you are engaged.—*American Messenger*.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY FOR COLLEGES.

A brother who spent the last Sabbath in Hanover, informs us that the work of grace, which we noticed last week, is progressing with great power, especially amongst the Students of the College. Twenty-seven persons were received into the Church on that day, and many others attended the inquiry meetings. At the regular meeting of one of the literary societies of the College, it was ascertained that every individual present, numbering near fifty, was either a member of the Church, or had recently obtained a hope in Christ, and, on motion of one of their number, it was unanimously resolved that the exercises be suspended for the evening, and those of thanksgiving and prayer be substituted in their place. There has been no violent excitement or unusually protracted public exercises. Scarcely a single student now remains unaffected. The presence and power of the Spirit of God are everywhere visible in their effects upon those who, but a short time since, were utterly careless and indifferent on the great subject of their soul's salvation.

A letter from Oxford, Ohio, informs us that forty-one persons were received into the Church there on last Sabbath, and that the work is still progressing among the Students of Miami University. This is the day (Thursday, February 27th) appointed by the Church to pray especially for the outpouring of the Spirit upon our Colleges and Universities, and it has come to pass that before we had spoken, God has answered. Verily we have reason to pray and thank God for these blessings.—*Presbyterian Herald*.

A PARABLE.—A man was cutting down branches in a forest, to make up a load which he was to carry home on his shoulders. He gathered a large bundle tied together, lifted it up, and attempted to carry it away; but finding it very heavy, he laid it down again. He went to work to cut down more boughs, and heaped them on. He now tried a second time to carry it off, but again laid it down. This he repeated a great many times, till it became so heavy that he could not lift it from the ground. At length, when it had become an enormous pile, he attempted, as it were in desperation, to remove it; but his limbs tottered, his strength ebb'd away, and the shadows of death gathered around him. After a convulsive, but impotent effort, he fell down under his burden and expired. Here you have an exact representation of those who, sensible of their sins, resolve to repent, but delay it from day to day, and from year to year. They are always increasing the burden, and as the duty becomes more irksome, they put it off still longer, in the vain hope that they will by and by be more able to accomplish it. Thus they go on till, in despair of God's mercy, and with their sins unpurged, they lie down and die. Delay not, then, to give thyself to God. Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.—*American Messenger*.

Since the return of the Pope 39,000 persons have been exiled from Rome.

A COLLEGE ENDOWMENT.

From the Presbyterian.

In these days of schemes for doing good, we have met with no plan for a college endowment that is more feasible, and in the end more nobly useful, than the one already presented in our paper for raising \$100,000 for Lafayette College. The energetic President, Dr. McLennan, proposes to raise this sum on the following scheme:—

"1. One Hundred Dollars paid shall entitle the subscriber to the tuition of all his sons, without further charge, in the College proper; or, instead of his own sons, those of any family he may designate: and for every additional hundred dollars which the same individual may pay, he shall have the privilege of designating the sons of any family he may think proper to receive tuition in the College as above. The regular tuition fees for one student, for a full course, is One Hundred and Sixty Dollars.

"2. Five Hundred Dollars paid by an individual, an association of individuals, or by a congregation, shall entitle the individual, association, or session of the Church or congregation, to a perpetual scholarship, to which the parties may appoint any individual they may select—and the scholarship may be devised by will as any other property. The incumbents on any of the scholarships to be subject, of course, to all the rules and regulations of the College, as well as the discipline.

"3. No subscription shall be binding until the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS has been actually subscribed, at which time all subscriptions shall be due and payable, and shall draw interest until collected. Upon the payment of the subscriptions, scrip will be issued, which may be transferable as other property, as above specified. The funds invested to be secured by bond and mortgage on unincumbered real estate, or other good and sufficient security.

"4. The Trustees bind themselves and their successors, that the funds thus contributed shall never be used for purposes inconsistent with the views of Christian truth as now entertained by the Synod of Philadelphia in connexion with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

"Donations of any sums will be thankfully received."

The advantages of this plan are great and obvious. It secures to hundreds and to thousands of young men the opportunity of a collegiate course of study, while it gives the College the means of imparting the instruction. It sustains the College, and provides the students. Besides, it makes each donor an interested friend, patron, and supporter of the Institution, so that a College with a thousand donors of a hundred dollars each, on these terms, is sure of success and indefinitely extended usefulness.

We are not surprised to hear that the churches receive the President's application with great favour, and that in some of the rural parishes he has had subscriptions to the amount of thousands of dollars. That he will push it on, and secure the whole before the next commencement, we are very confident, and certainly he will, if parents and friends of education are prepared to appreciate a judicious and economical scheme for the investment of a small sum of money.

THE HINDU SISTER.

This affecting narrative will stimulate and encourage our young readers, especially such of them as are engaged in any missionary enterprise. The pennies thrown into the missionary box in the Sabbath school, may enable some benevolent person like Mrs. Wilson to rescue a heathen child from degrading superstition. Were the