

### Children and Books.

The child is greater than the book and the book must wait upon his needs. The instinctive interests which predominate at any given period of child life, determine largely what he can appropriate from literature.

The child before the age of eight is interested in vivid images, but not in relations. He cares for action, for color and sense, for the marvelous and the impossible; hence he revels in myth and fairy tale. This child knows only the family; loves stories of children, delights in the Indian, but has no more comprehension of his own country than a Zulu savage. Rhythm attracts him to song and poem. Even his prose stories should "run in the ears like the noise of breakers."

From eight to fourteen the boy reads invention and travel greedily, to find out how things are done. He loves the moving tale flavored with bloodshed and wonder. Give him this sort of incident in good literature where it embodies truth and thought, and he will soon reject worthless stuff of his own accord. The girl's book of this period is largely pernicious. Let the girl read her brother's book till her demand for the love story cannot be ignored; then give her the best class of novels.

From fourteen to eighteen in early adolescence, there is a craze for reading. It matters not how many books are read, so they be wholesome. Let the young mind catch fire at many points, so the spark be divine. A foundation of wide reading must be laid now for the close logical study of one book later.

There should be more story-telling and oral reading in home, school, and library. It is not wicked to begin in the middle of a book, if that be its attractive point. It is as absurd to make a boy study the life of the authors to interest him in Ichabod Crane, as it would be to make a young man study the family records as a preliminary to falling in love with the daughter of the house.

Finally, any child will love good literature who is surrounded by its lovers. Before we legislate that every teacher must sing and draw, let us insist that no teacher who knows not literature and loves it not, be appointed to take charge of children of any age.—*Selected.*

There was a teachers' institute the other day in Eldorado, Kan., and some of the young men habited in gorgeous shirt waists took their seats in a row in the rear of the room. The instructions were going along a few minutes later when the old professor looked over the top of his spectacles and said: "For this question I would like an answer from one of the young ladies in the back seat."

### CURRENT EVENTS.

Prof. Goldwin Smith has donated to the library of Toronto University the sum of ten thousand dollars, stating that it is intended as a memorial of King Alfred, the restorer of English learning.

Newfoundland contains large tracts of spruce and fir, which are about to be entered by capitalists interested in the pulp industry; and the ancient colony will probably in a few years become one of the great pulp centres of the world.

At the Pan-American Exposition, every exhibit of Ontario fruit put into competition carried off a medal.

Iron is now shipped from Cape Breton to the United States, where it finds a market in competition with Pennsylvania iron.

A cable has been laid from the mainland of Labrador to Belle Isle. Navigators who go through the straits of Belle Isle will be greatly benefitted by the work. There is now uninterrupted telegraph communication overland from the Youkon to Labrador.

It has been suggested that Canada endeavor to purchase Greenland from Denmark and add it to the Dominion. It was a serious error on the part of our statesmen that they did not buy Alaska when it was offered for sale by the Russian government.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York have completed their journey across the continent, and are now returning to the eastern provinces. There has been nothing lacking in the Canadian welcome to the royal party. Wherever they have stopped, profuse decorations, loyal demonstrations, and popular enthusiasm have greeted them. They are expected to reach St. John on the 17th, and will sail from Halifax on the 21st, having travelled 30,000 miles without visiting a foreign country.

The royal Duke and Duchess, who are presumably the future king and queen of the Britons of all the world, have visited in their tour Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Ceylon, Singapore, the new commonwealth of Australia (where the Duke opened the first federal parliament), New Zealand, Mauritius, South Africa and Canada, and will touch at Newfoundland on the return voyage to the British Islands. No such royal progress was ever made before; and no foreign prince or potentate can find so many loyal races and so many free governments beneath his flag.

Among the notable incidents of their royal highnesses' Canadian tour was the reception at Ottawa, where the electric illuminations exceeded any that they had seen elsewhere in the world. On the plains near Calgary, in the territory of Alberta, thousands of friendly Indians gathered to present loyal addresses and perform their tribal ceremonies in honor of the son of their king. The C. P. R. train on which the royal party travelled from ocean to ocean was made in the workshops at Montreal, and was the most magnificent ever seen on this continent or elsewhere. On their return trip the royal visitors will see Niagara Falls.