

"They open the various avenues of all the Arts and Sciences ; they are never troublesome, but answer every question. In return for all their services, they only ask a convenient chamber in some corner, where they may repose in peace, and are more pleased with the tranquility of retirement than with the tumults of society."

Many readers miss much of the pleasure of reading, by forcing themselves to dwell too long on one subject continuously. If two, or three, different subjects are kept on hand (one of them of an amusing character) by changing as soon as a sense of weariness supervenes, each can be again taken up with renewed zest ; but the wider the field the more important it is that the reader should benefit by the very best works in each class. Not that he should confine himself to them, but he should commence with them, and they will naturally lead on to others. Lord Brougham used to say—"It is well to read everything of something, and something of everything."

In this way only can we ascertain the bent of our own tastes, and a young man's desultory reading will perhaps be one of the most useful means for finding what his life's career should be. By his own discursive reading he can learn what work for his peculiar abilities is open for him in the world, and he will judge easily what line of study he should first pursue. Then, following out this clue, he can proceed to fulfil the requirements of education and the inclination of his own mental disposition. The main practical question of the selection and proper use of books rests not on what is good in general, or in special literature, but what is best fitted for each individual. The foundation of success in life is physical and mental, nervous and moral aptitude, and from this condition future capabilities may be to some extent foreseen. These capabilities are the indicators of the course of reading required, and by them a youth's career should be selected and decided on. It is not in the means or the reach of all of us to travel, but the next best thing to it, when it cannot be indulged in, is the reading descriptions of voyages and travels, and some of them are so graphic, and so ably depict scenes and places, that if the reader in after days chances to visit them, his ideas are prepared for what he sees, and he readily recognizes, almost like an old frequented spot, some at