

The tendency is now downward, and we shall hereafter import stationery stock from the mother country more largely than before.

"The importations of books for the year amount to \$118,326, against \$155,842 last year.

5. VALUE OF LIBRARIES TO YOUTH.

Create a taste in youth for good books, and the pleasures of literature will supply the place of those grosser pleasures that lead astray the unthinking. It is the will made strong by cultivation that enables a man to resist the cravings of those appetites whose indulgence brings death. The ignorant man must of necessity be a man of narrow views and strong prejudices; and even in questions which involve great moral principles he is quite as likely to be wrong as right. The safe man in society is the man who is competent to do his own thinking.

6. DEVELOPE A LOVE OF READING.

While it is true that "of making many books there is no end," it is equally true that many of them ought never to see the light of day. A good book is a rich treasure, and whoever writes one is a public benefactor. Circulating good books is sowing the seeds of thought which will spring up and yield a rich harvest of intellectual and moral fruit. No one can estimate the amount of good that one valuable book may do, by developing thought, awakening the moral feelings, promoting noble aspirations, and shaping the course of life. Our State then acted wisely when it made provision for establishing a library in every district within its borders, and we hope that well selected libraries will be found ere long in every district in the State.

But when books are written and libraries are established, all is not accomplished. There must be developed in the minds of the young a love for good reading. How to accomplish this, is a question of great practical importance. The individual that goes out from our public schools thoroughly imbued with a love of good literature, will be constantly adding to his store of knowledge; his moral feelings will be kept active by communion with the pure thoughts that sparkle on the pages of all good books; and his aspirations for truth, justice, and right will be daily strengthened. Teachers might profitably spend more time in striving to develop in the minds of the young a love of literature. When once awakened, it can be made of great practical use in storing the mind with useful knowledge; and when the school-going days are past, it will continue to be an educating power through life. If a love of knowledge is not awakened, the great object of education can not be obtained. With it, education becomes, as it should be, a life-long work. If the teacher would see his pupils imbued with a love of reading, he must feel its inspiration, he must be a reader, not merely of the transient literature of the day, but of the works of sterling worth that are to be found in the different departments of our literature. For him

"Let every nation's mind unfold its thought,
And every sage depict the starry scheme,
And every hero tell how once he died,
And every poet sing."

Then he can touch the hearts of his pupils with the fire of his own spirit, and kindle there a flame that shall burn with ever increasing brilliancy as long as mind endures. Every reading lesson that is made interesting and dwelt upon until thoroughly understood, will create a desire for more. Every sparkling gem of thought that may be read, perhaps as a general exercise, may serve to fan the awakened desire to a flame. Every good book, from the school library or elsewhere, that may be properly read, will add fuel to the flame; and thus the little desire once awakened may, by careful culture and training, become a perpetual fire, burning forever with a holy flame on the altar of the soul's consciousness.

It seems to me that many teachers have not paid sufficient attention to this department of their profession. The dislike for solid and instructive reading that prevails to so great an extent in many communities, ought to stimulate us to greater efforts in behalf of the young. It is of little use to establish libraries in a community unless a love for reading exists. This desire can be as easily awakened as a love for mathematics or any other branch of study, if we only adopt as definite a plan for its development; and it certainly will be attended with as beneficial results in after life. To be sure, when once awakened it needs proper guidance and direction, but to guide and direct is the teacher's mission. There is no reason why the reading of history should not be an interesting and profitable exercise to every cultured mind. The reading of a biography often awakens nobler aspirations, gives increased efforts to individual action, and sometimes shapes the whole course of life. Poetry, too, has its uses,—a noble, elevating, refining influence. Every child that attends a proper course of instruction in our public schools, may be trained to love and appreciate those sparkling gems that are

found scattered throughout the poetic literature of our language. The child that acquires a love of good literature has a constant friend, one that will shield from temptation, yield instruction, and give sweet delight to the soul.—A TEACHER in *Connecticut Common School Journal*.

7. THE POWER OF BOOKS.

Books have prodigious power. If we could trace the means which have contributed to form our present views to three principal external sources, viz.: what we have seen, what we have heard, and what we have read, we should probably find the last by no means the least active or fertile. A book is a silent but most intimate companion; it does not ask attention, nor take offence at neglect; its name and dress give us no certain clue to its character; the opinions of others as to its value may be the result of prejudice or ignorance. We are told that to know what it is, we must read it, and to read it is to subject ourselves to its influence for better or worse. Prudent travellers in public conveyances, or sojourners at hotels, are very careful what intercourse they encourage, or allow strangers to have with them, for a pickpocket is not always distinguishable by dress or manners from an honest gentleman; but how much more vigilant should we be to preserve the mind and heart from contact with what may pollute or pervert, than to protect our purse or watch, from light-fingers! When you take up a book to read, of the character of which you are wholly unapprised, is your presumption less than when you admit to your confidence one to whose principles and motives you are a stranger? It might indeed, be easier to throw the book aside than to discard the treacherous friend; but on the other hand, the former may conceal the poisonous fang till the fatal wound is made; while the latter by his tone and manner will be very likely to betray his character in season to defeat its evil purpose.

The art of introducing false or equivocal principle into the public lecture, the newspaper paragraph, or the book, in company with the incontrovertible truths, has been brought to great perfection in our day; it is not always, perhaps not generally, an intentional fraud upon the hearer or reader. The author's or lecturer's mind may have been perverted; or truth and error may be so uncertainly comprehended as to be mistaken the one for the other; but however ample such an apology may be for writing a bad book, it does not cover our imprudence, not to say folly, in reading it. Magazines pamphlets, and newspapers, are the sluices through which every production of the human brain, that can be shaped in type metal, passes into the reading world. There is no principle so corrupt, no sentiment so false, no ribaldry so base, no jest so profane or obscene, that it has been denied an imprint. And what is particularly to be noted, the brightest wit, and the most sparkling popular style, are found in close alliance with some of the grossest forms of error. If marriage the most sacred of all human relations, on which the chief interest of civilization and social virtue and progress rest, and to which woman owes her elevation above the condition of abject slaves; if marriage is to be assailed as a factitious rite, to be modified or entirely dispensed with as the parties concerned may choose, some glib romancer is at hand to prepare the flashy tale, or magazine story in which the sacred bond which the hand of God hath woven is rejected as a superfluous obligation, or an impertinent imposition on natural liberty, and a hundred thousand copies are afloat in a week, and largely in the hands of those who are least on their guard, and most easily deluded by meretricious reasoning.—*The Rock*.

8. TESTIMONY TO THE SCRIPTURES.

I have heard of a copy of the Scriptures preserved in one of our old castles, which belonged more than a century since to the noble owner. At the end of many hundred verses through the volume he has carefully signed his name; and at the close of the volume, in a handwriting evidently tremulous from weakness, dated a short time before his death, are these words:—"I hereby set my seal to the truth of every promise contained in this book, having found them all realised throughout a long life, in my own happy experience."—*Rev. Charles Bullock*.

9. GREAT READERS.

Most great men have been great readers. Miracles are recounted of their powers of perusal. How Dr. Johnson "would tear out the heart" of a book at a glance. How Burke devoured two volumes octavo in a stage-coach; and how package after package of those sweet medicines for the mind was thrown in to Napoleon on the island, like food to a lion, and, with hoc presto, despatched. After all the pity and puling have been exhausted by commentators on the lamentable ignorance of Shakspeare, we ascertain to a surety that he was one of the most profound and extensive readers of his time. The man who in the present age had written most had read most. Reading and writing go together as naturally in literature