

powers and the development of a good style, read the standard poets and the best of our English prose writers. In these days of cheap books, you can easily do this. From the New York publishing houses, you can now get cheap editions of the best authors at extremely favourable rates. In one series, for the small sum of a dollar, you can get Macaulay's *Essays*, Carlyle's *Essays*, Goldsmith's "Letters from a Citizen of the World," Disraeli's "Calamities of Authors," Colton's "Lacon," and an essay on "Self-Culture," by John Stuart Blackie, with other works in the same proportion. It is such writers as these that we should read, for though we may never reach their high standard, yet, he who moves in such high company, while he retains his own individuality, will certainly acquire something of the style of his associates. You should also cultivate the poets. There is a strain of poetry in every man's nature. It should be cultivated. Poetry develops the better qualities of a man: generosity, benevolence, charity, patriotism, piety, etc.; and while it does this it enriches and elevates the understanding. You should not confine yourself to any one poet or to any one class of poetry, yet I think that above all others you should certainly read Shakespeare; first, for the reason that he is the greatest poet, and secondly, because of the variety you will find in him. While other poets may be read under certain conditions of the mind, Shakespeare may be read under all humours. If you would be merry, Falstaff will make you laugh; if you would be sad, hear Desdemona's plaintive wail; if you would hate, let Shylock inspire you; and if you are in love, let Romeo speak your passion, and Juliet answer it. What a wealth is to be found in Shakespeare no thoughtful student will fail to discover. I have not read much, I have scarcely yet

wet the sole of my feet in the immense ocean of literature, yet I am convinced that as a recreation, as a study, and a means of mental development, next to the Bible, there is no book equal to Shakspeare.

Finally, avoid novels. Need I say anything on this point? Are there any young teachers whose reading is confined to fiction? But you say, shall we not read the best novels, the high class novels? I answer, not so long as you are a student. The reading of a long story takes up too much of your time and thought. When you have leisure, you may perhaps read the novels that are considered classic in the language, but I honestly believe that no man would be the worse for it who never read any kind of a novel in his life. Then we are told that the imagination is one of the most important faculties of the mind and that novel reading develops that faculty. I answer that there are other and healthier means of educating this faculty. Prof. Blackie on this point, says:—"It is not necessary to go to romances for pictures of human character and fortune calculated to please the fancy and elevate the imagination. The life of Alexander the Great, of Martin Luther, of Gustavus Adolphus, or any of those notable characters on the great stage of the world, who incarnate the history which they create, is for this purpose of more educational value than the best novel that ever was written or even the best poetry." The best exercise, then, even for the imagination, is when it copes with realities, and this is what the student should concern himself with. As for those trashy, sensational novels which some people devour with such avidity, there can be nothing more injurious. I have had a wide experience in this matter from the association I have had with boys and young men at boarding schools and other places. I could