

the dead that are carried forth? The rich man and his wife. Are they now objects of envy? Are any of those who would have gladly exchanged conditions with them a few weeks since, ready now to make the exchange? Alas! the wealth which appeared so inviting has for them lost its lustre, and what is its value if it could not purchase a reprieve from the grave? Seek not for riches. It is an uncertain and an unreal possession. It soon changes hands, and if it does not win the heart from God and Heaven, it at least furnishes no qualification for the higher and holier enjoyments of a better world.—*Phil. Presbyterian.*

### NOVEL READING.—FIFTEEN REASONS AGAINST IT.

1. *Those who write novels*, especially the popular novels of our day, are known to be *lux* in principle, and loose in life. As is the tree, so be the fruit. 'Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?' Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.'

2. If any good there be in novels, there is *no good which can not be obtained elsewhere.*

3. Their general tendency is to evil. They often present virtue and vice in *false colours.*

4. Novel reading is a *wicked waste of time*; which should be employed in the acquisition of useful knowledge. Precious hours, more precious than rubies, which God has given for noble and holy purposes, are wasted in ministering to the morbid appetite of a depraved heart. Will not he who has thus squandered time,

'That stuff that life is made of,  
And which when lost is never lost alone,  
Because it carries souls upon its wings,'

mourn at the last, when his flesh and his body are consumed, and say, how have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof?

5. Their *cost*, is another objection. True, very many works of fiction and romance are put at a low price—but the cost of these, during a lifetime, amounts to a large sum. Miss W. paid \$70, in one year, for novels, including the fashion plate magazines, Godey, Graham, Harper, &c. And whose money was this, expended to gratify a vitiated taste? hers or God's? 'Ye are bought with a price.'

Is this laying up treasure in heaven, with God's money? or heaping fuel to feed the flame of immortal woe? Beware, novel reader, BEWARE!

6. Novel reading *begets a vain, volatile, trifling, frivolous mind.* We are not most habitual readers of fictitious works, excessively fond of gay and expensive clothing—external decorations, ornaments of jewelry, of 'gold, pearls, and costly array,' which God has strictly forbidden?

'The imagination becomes wild and extravagant, like a ship in a storm without compass or helm. A distorted imagination unfits hu-