

remained to me a master piece of poetic genius, not a mere ephemeron depending for its life on some transient caprice of human life, but lasting as life itself, an exhaustless source of pleasureable meditation and comforting thought.

And do you not think that the average pupil will feel amply repaid at every step in this process if he can by it be led to see in the selection what before was veiled to him. He does not have to go through all the process in order that he may reap some indefinable pleasure or good when he has concluded such analysis; at every step if the work be judiciously conducted he is greeted with new insight into thought before unperceived, new beauty opens up to him her fountain of elevating pleasure. In every case such powers of discernment cannot be attained without some sacrifice; there is a possibility of carrying the sugar coating process to such a degree that the pupil leaves school in many instances without the slightest grasp of those principles which would enable him to read intelligently and pleasantly the host of good books free for reading.

"I do not suppose" says Seely again, "there is any rational man who would not admit it to be a most desirable thing that the great mass of a population should have a knowledge of great English writers of the past ages a discrimination of the best English writers of the present. I am not generally a sanguine reformer, but I confess I see no reason in the nature of things for that gross ignorance with which we are surrounded. It is surely not a necessity that persons in decent circumstances, in decent society, persons who have passed several years at school should go through life without any intellectual tastes, without any sense of literary excellence, falling victims to every tinsel allurements of style, entirely outside the influence of living genius" and scarcely aware even as an historical fact that Bacon, Shakespeare, Milton and Tennyson have bequeathed to us such undying genius.

Train the children in an appreciative knowledge of our literature and we beget within them such an independence of thought that they cannot become what their parents in too many cases are to-day, slaves of every demagogue, "sports of every random guest."

Now to increase the pupil's love for good reading it is clear we must extend this work beyond that of the ordinarily prescribed school texts. For this purpose School Boards should furnish in cheap binding such works as are