

of the boys but 31, while in the case of the girls it is 127. Comparing the respective ratios between fiction and adventure, we find in the case of the boys it is 4, while in the case of the girls it is 18. The books classed as adventure are in the main a species of fiction, but even so regarding them, there is a wide difference as to the kind of fiction preferred.

The following list contains the hundred books receiving the greatest number of votes in the order of preference.

First Fifty.		No. of Preferences.	Boys.	Girls.
1 Little Women.	.....	94	2	92
2 Uncle Tom's Cabin.	.....	86	23	63
3 Robinson Crusoe.	.....	74	47	27
4 The Boys of '76.	.....	58	53	5
5 Life of Washington.	.....	52	32	20
6 Black Beauty.	.....	49	24	25
7 Grimm's Fairy Tales.	.....	42	17	25
8 Little Men.	.....	35	20	15
9 Little Red Ridinghood.	.....	21	2	19
10 Under the Lilacs.	.....	21	4	17
11 Little Lord Fauntleroy.	.....	21	7	14
12 Life of Lincoln.	.....	21	14	7
13 Evangeline.	.....	20	8	12
14 Two Little Pilgrims' Progress.	.....	17	5	12
15 Fisk's History of the U. S.	.....	15	15	0
16 Seven Little Sisters.	.....	14	3	11
17 The Story of Our Country.	.....	10	0	10
18 Alice in Wonderland.	.....	9	0	9
19 Longfellow's Poems.	.....	9	4	5
20 Building of the Nation.	.....	9	7	2
21 Jack and the Bean Stalk.	.....	9	1	8
22 Sweet William.	.....	9	2	7
23 Cuori.	.....	9	4	5
24 Cinderella.	.....	8	0	8
25 The Arabian Nights.	.....	7	2	5
26 The Christmas Carol.	.....	7	0	7
27 The Lamplighters.	.....	7	1	6
28 John Halifax.	.....	7	1	6
29 Swiss Family Robinson.	.....	7	4	3
30 Juan and Juanita.	.....	7	7	0
31 Huckleberry Finn.	.....	7	2	5
32 The Scottish Chiefs.	.....	6	3	3
33 Cast Away in the Cold.	.....	6	3	3
34 Gulliver's Travels.	.....	6	6	0
35 Eight Cousins.	.....	5	0	5
36 Aunt Jo's Scrap-book.	.....	5	0	5
37 Five Little Peppers.	.....	5	2	3
38 Tom Sawyer.	.....	5	5	0
39 Ben Hur.	.....	5	0	5
40 David Copperfield.	.....	5	1	4
41 Ivanhoe.	.....	5	3	2
42 Editha's Burglar.	.....	5	0	5
43 Sara Crew.	.....	5	0	5
44 Count of Monte-Cristo.	.....	5	3	2
45 Old Fashioned Girls.	.....	5	1	4
46 The Pilgrim's Progress.	.....	5	2	3
47 Life of Franklin.	.....	5	3	2
48 Daniel Boone.	.....	5	5	0
49 The Wide, Wide World.	.....	5	0	5
50 Bird's Christmas Carol.	.....	5	0	5

Second Fifty from five to three preferences each:

Dickens' Child's History of England.	Rip Van Winkle.
Hans Anderson's Fairy Tales.	The Last of the Mohicans.
Captain January.	With Lee in Virginia.
Red Skin and Cow-boy.	Poor Boys who Become Famous.
Jack the Giant Killer.	Nicholas Nickleby.
Oliver Twist.	Barnes' History of the U. S.
Frank on the Gun Boat.	Montgomery's History of the U. S.
Grandfather's Chair.	Jo's Boys.
The Wandering Jew.	The Prisoner of Zenda.
Elsie Dinsmore.	The Lion of St. Mark.
Elsie's Children.	Jack and Jill.
The Last Days of Pompeii.	Æsop's Fables.
Life of U. S. Grant.	Dotty Dimple.
Hawthorn's Wonderbook.	Frank on the Mountains.
The Hunter of the Ozark.	Adventures of a Brownie.
St. Bartholemew's Eve.	Rose in Bloom.
Boys of the First Empire.	Adam Bede.
Not Like Other Girls.	A World of Girls.
The Boys of '61.	Five Little Peppers Grown Up.
Frank in the Woods.	Wild Life Under the Equator.
What Katy Did.	Ragged Dick.
Beautiful Joe.	History of Columbus.
The Old Curiosity Shop.	Barriers Burned Away.
Life of Napoleon.	Innocents Abroad.
Little Saint Elizabeth.	Peck's Bad Boy.

The answers to the third and sixth questions, as might be supposed, present many difficulties in classification. The reasons for preference and for non-preference are varied. Of all the reasons given, the non-explanatory

reasons, "Because it was interesting," "Because it was not interesting," were far in excess. Many others, again, expressed the reason for their preference by stating some detail of the story, or by saying "Because it is about—so and so."

The reasons for dislike were much more clearly stated on the whole than the reasons for preference.

Some of the characteristic answers of boys as to preference are, "Because it is about boys," "Because it is about war," "Because it was exciting," "Because it contained history," "Because it was funny"; and of girls, "Because it was about girls," "Because it is a natural story," "Because the characters were good," *i. e.*, kind, loving, brave, etc.

Some characteristic answers to the question concerning dislikes are, "Because it was silly," "Because it is a book for girls" (said by boys), "Because it is a book for boys" (said by girls), "Because it is a love story" (said by boys and younger girls), "Because it is for younger children," "Because it was dry," "Because it was sad," "Because I could not understand it."

In the preferences for history and biography, the giving of information was frequently cited as a reason by boys of foreign parentage.

The following are some quotations from individual papers.

Girl of 14. I did not like "Gulliver's Travels" because it was so silly.

Boy of 13. I did not like "Little Women" because it is a book for girls.

Girl of 13. I liked "Little Lord Fauntleroy" because it was such a sweet story.

Boy of 12. I did not like "Lord Fauntleroy" because my mother always made comparisons.

Boy of 13. The book I liked best was "The Red Cockade," because it informed me of pretty near all the wars; it used good language, and told me exciting adventures of generals and captains. The book I did not like was "Pendennis." The reason why I did not like it was because it didn't use very good language and told some of the most foolish stories I ever saw. It told things that made me dream nights; altogether combined it was no good.

Girl of 15. I didn't like "Tom Brown's School Days." I didn't like it because it was a very silly book. The boys wouldn't think so because it tells how to play football and so on, so it has no interest for me, for I will never play football. Altogether it is a book for boys, not for girls.

In presenting this report I must express my pleasure in knowing that such an amount of high class reading is being done by the boys and girls in the different schools sending in returns. The list of 100 books receiving highest choice is, on the whole, worthy of much commendation. Not that in the whole list of several thousand books, there were not a number that might be better left unread, but, on the whole, if the truth in the majority of cases has been told, there is a gratifying scarcity of books of the "dime novel" type. One of the principal causes of this is, without doubt, that in each of the schools from which papers were received there is a good school library, and so a tribute of considerable worth has been paid to the school library idea.