

Novels



IN this century a great deal of time is spent in reading novels. Every day we hear of some new novel; in every magazine there is a long story continued from month to month and which turns out to be a novel. Even in some of the Sunday newspapers a novel is started and finished, being continued from week to week. Young and old, educated and uneducated are eager for such kind of reading material.

In giving the definition of a novel it may be said, to be, a narration in an interesting and entertaining style of common every day life, always understanding that novels are fictitious. However in the representation of character in novels, many interesting and useful facts are obtained of the class of people each person is supposed to represent. These facts are written in a style which is easily understood by all readers, and would not be learned in any other way. Novels, which may be called morally good are only few in number. If all novels were of such a standard, then there would be no objection raised such as is often the case today.

The great majority of these novels are bad. The language in them is coarse, the sentences and phrases have double meanings, and in short life is distorted. Such novels have a very injurious affect upon the readers, and especially upon the young readers and it is in the hands of the younger people that many such novels are found.

Most people read novels as a pastime and consider it intellectual recreation. In the case of good novels it is so. But on the other hand, the reading of novels in general is an injury rather than a good. A young mind receives false ideas of the world and the effect is soon apparent in the character of that person. Especially is this true of the uneducated person and the young boy or girl who has taken to novel reading before completing his or her education. Novels should not be read by such people, books of more weight and instruction should be substituted. A mind well trained and strengthened by sound and firm principles cannot be easily disturbed or agitated by novel reading. So in such a class of people alone, novel-reading cannot produce evil effects.

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