

aside whenever it is possible, for the favorite novels. This is not always the worst evil resulting from improper reading. The splendid qualities of the heroes are transferred to some living character; it is imagined he has the deep dark and lustrous eye, the wreathing hair, the marble brow, the noble and high born grace of a Thaddeus, a Sir William Wallace, or some other imaginary favorite; and it is all the same whether he be a gambler, a play actor, or a horse thief, she believes it not: reflection is at an end, and the novelist wakes from her dream, to hear her bitter lot in the stern realities of life, without preparation of mind or heart. On the contrary, useful books impart strength and vigor to the mind, discipline it to bear the misfortunes of life, render it more capable of judging the true character of others, and of acting with discretion in all trying situations. Read for instance the life of a Franklin, a Washington, a Miss Hannah More, and you find in every page something to imitate, something to better the heart and life. In Miss M. you see a woman of true feminine grace and dignity, one who learned and taught the art of "growing old gracefully."

If you will read novels, read but few, and those selected by some one upon whose judgment you can depend. Miss Elgeworth, if I might hazard an opinion, is one of the very few whose works may be read with safety and even profit. She has sense, practical every day common sense, that is good for use. She talks about industry, economy, correct principles and actions. She possesses at the same time delicacy and propriety in all things. Better for you to read the pure morality that lives in her writings, than to pore over the passionate effusions of the corrupt Bulwer. He it is, who now writes, and forms the taste of millions, and when he talks of love, how fervently do his tones of tenderness gush forth, as if he had a heart to appreciate the holier sentiments of human nature. But while he thus writes, he can treat even with personal violence, the beautiful wife who loved and trusted,—who gave to him the first pure affection of her noble heart; he can separate her from her children, drive her from his home to take refuge with strangers, and even follow her with insult and persecution. But I am digressing. There is another article I will mention. Read but few books, and let your knowledge be accurate. Understand perfectly what you read, it is better to gain two ideas you can appropriate to your own use, than to have a confused idea of fifty things.—One of our great men attributes all the distinction he has gained, to the careful perusal of one book. The authors of purest style and most correct sentiments should be studied; while those of an opposite character ought ever to be carefully avoided. You know a woman generally thought intelligent, if she can talk about a good number of authors she has read do not think it is always conclusive evidence. It is oftener a proof her knowledge is superficial.

There are but few of our sex who devote much time to study, in our part of the country at least, and you frequently find that she who has most names at the end of her tongue, has fewest ideas in her head. Some minds of uncommon strength may be improved by the study of many books; where however it is advantageous to one, it is a disadvantage to many others. A feeling of vanity is produced, and the intellect confused, rather than enlightened, of course I speak of young persons. Do not look into books in order to make a show; to show their title and a few sentences from them. I have seen young persons who would look for an hour or two into Paley, and then talk more philosophy than others who had studied him thoroughly, and had his ideas on all matters before them. Some one writing of this effort at display,

says, "you can always see the bottom of the pebbly brook, but the ocean unveils not its richly gemmed carpeting." Miss Beecher, speaking of a young lady who had but few books, and had studied them well, mentions that "a person of information in conversing with her would always feel a constant wondering pleasure, to find she had so much more to say of this and that and the other thing than he had expected."

This cannot be said of mere smatterers you know. There are many of you who devour with eagerness, all the fashionable journals of love tales. Now, love is an excellent thing in its place, but reading about it all the time is not much benefit. I cannot think you derive much improvement from such studies. They produce a pleasing excitement for the time, but then that time is to all intents and purposes wasted. Take care of the minutes, and the hours and days will take care of themselves.

There are papers in our country you may read, and improve from the perusal, and they are those devoted to Agriculture. You may say what have I to do with Agriculture? You have much or will have, in the course of your future life. They will teach you how to cultivate the gardens you intend to have, when you go house keeping; how to manage household affairs with the most ease and to the best advantage, how to do a hundred and fifty other things. A number of you will marry young doctors, lawyers, preachers, merchants, with soft white hands, who know nothing beyond their professions, and if you can learn something beforehand, and teach them common sense about going to work, and earning their living by the sweat of their brow, as the Lord intended them to do, it will add more to your own comfort than you have any idea of. After the first romance of love is over, you will want all those things that grow in the earth, and out of the earth, and you cannot gain them without a good degree of knowledge and a great deal of hard work. My maxim is, learn every thing you can, from darning socks, to milking cows. Put it all down in your mind, or in a book. You will need it some time or other.

To mention these Agricultural papers again, I would not be deprived of the information I gain from them, for all the love tales in the country. The *Boston Cultivator*, for instance, contains much that is pleasing and useful. There is always something addressed to the ladies, that makes it a welcome guest. The *Yankee Farmer*, thinks it one of the most proper things in life, that girls learn about the "soft soap of domestic economy," while young. The *American Agriculturist* has a little of most all matters that are good. The *American Farmer* and The *Cultivator* will teach not only you, but your fathers, a good deal they do not know. There is a host of other Farmers and Planters, and Ploughboys and Cultivators, that I have not now time to write about, but they are all valuable for their information on business we have to attend to every day, month and year. I have but one objection to some of them, and it is, that they do not say quite enough for the benefit of the Ladies. One reason may be given for this, the ladies say very little to them. I have written till I am tired, I expect you will be tired reading, and will tax you no longer.

HINTS TO YOUNG MEN.

Be Industrious. We do not mean here the industry of the hands alone; but that perseverance in whatever we undertake, that is the sure precursor of ultimate success. Never allow the mind or the body to stagnate; activity is necessary to the health of both. Always have some worthy end in view, in whatever you undertake; remembering that to fail with

good intentions, is more honourable than success in an evil cause:

Cultivate your Mind. It is of more importance to the young, that their reading should be select, rather than extensive. One volume well understood, on any important topic, is better than half a dozen merely skimmed. There are many subjects of general utility, with which every one should have a partial knowledge at least; but it is one of the great faults of modern education to spend too much time on studies that rather burden and clog the mind, than strengthen and inform it for life's practical duties. Reading, or studying without some definite aim, is likely to lead to few useful results. How many men there are who have spent a large part of their lives over books, of whom it may be said, "they remember a mass of things, but nothing distinctly." It is possible to cram the mind with masses of indigestible materials, destructive alike to a healthy and a vigorous action of the intellectual powers.

Be Economical. No matter if your parents are worth millions, it is not the less proper that you should understand the value of money, and the honest, honourable means of acquiring it. What multitudes of young men, particularly in our cities, make fatal shipwreck of reputation, health, and eventually of property, by a neglect of this simple maxim. They are aware that their fathers obtained their wealth by habits of industry, but they are ashamed of the very name. They forget that wealth in this country passes rapidly from one to another, and that he who is rich to-day may be poor to-morrow; or that he who relies on wealth amassed by his father, may end his days in a poor-house. It is for the young here to say whether by industry and economy he will secure competence and respectability, or by extravagance and idleness become a worthless beggar and sponging outcast.

Be Just. In the course of life a man frequently finds his interests or his opinions crossed and thwarted by those from whom he had a right to expect better things, and the young are apt to feel such matters very sensibly. Be not rash in your condemnation. Look at their conduct carefully, and be just to the motives that prompt it. You may find that were you placed in their position, the course you now condemn would be the one proper for you, and the one you would be under obligation to pursue. A little cool consideration would avoid much censoriousness.

Shun avarice. One of the most disagreeable characters on earth, is that of the grasping, avaricious, penurious man. Generosity is perfectly compatible with economy; and the means which enable some of our most noble hearted, generous men, to do so much to benefit and bless mankind, are obtained, not by close-fisted penuriousness, but by economy. The distance is not greater between the zenith, and the nadir, than between the covetous and the economical man: the first banishes every just and honorable feeling from the heart, the other fosters and ministers to them all.

Determine to be useful. No matter what may be your condition in life, you have an influence, and that influence should always be exerted in a proper way. The young have no right to fold up their arms, bury their talent, and become the drones of the social hive. Aim high, but with prudence; act with determination and perseverance; let no obstacle drive you from the path of honor and duty, and you may be sure of eventual success. Riches are not within the reach of all: competence is; and the latter condition is preferable in every respect to the first. Remember the Deity helps those who help themselves, and that utility is the great end of human exertion. —*Albany Cultivator.*