

A TEACHER'S HOME READING.*

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ALTHOUGH not perhaps directly bearing on our school work, our home reading merits a share of attention—a share which, in this Institute, it has not yet received. The effect it has indirectly on our success in school or in the community, and the influence it has on our minds and on our future career in life, are undoubtedly great—so great as to make it advisable for us to look into the matter, and find out what reading is most conducive to our well-being. The benefits derived may be summed up in increased knowledge; in increased power, both in school and in the section; in increased ability to compose—a better judgment and a more liberal mind. Increased knowledge, because we shall gather from the experience of other and greater men. Increased power in the school, because, from our increased knowledge, we shall be able to make our lessons more interesting to the children; and in the section, for our general information will enable us to talk with sense upon any subject likely to be discussed in our presence; and this will ensure us a higher and more influential position among the people. Increased ability to compose; for nothing is so helpful to those who wish to write correctly as an acquaintance with good literature. Better judgment; for not only must we gain by the experience of others, but by the extent and variety of our reading. The varying views of different authors of other ages and climes will

show us all sides of questions, and thus afford a better chance of forming correct opinions, and a more liberal mind, from our increased knowledge of human nature. We shall find that all classes and creeds, whether in religion, in politics, in science or in philosophy, have been in turns oppressors and oppressed—at one time weak, at another strong; at one time scorned, at another worshipped. In religion, we shall see a Church whose members, eighteen hundred years ago, were insulted and despised, extend itself to every quarter of the globe, and yet which numbered among its adherents the wealthiest and the most highly civilized of the people, while the religion which condemned it sinks into insignificance. We shall see this Church, after fifteen hundred years of unity, suddenly split into two parts, each as antagonistic to the other as if there were no bond of union between them—as if they had never been parts of one whole. From one of these parts we shall find numerous sects separate themselves, and leave the country, to escape persecution, carrying, however, into new lands the same bitter feelings, the same spirit of persecution that had driven them from their homes, and treating others no better than they themselves had been treated. In politics, we shall find thousands dying for the doctrine of "Divine Right"—a doctrine which, in English-speaking countries, could now hardly find a defender. In science, Galileo was persecuted for asserting a belief in what is now held as truth by every-

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