

GOOD BOOKS TO READ

SOME ADVICE ON THEIR CHOICE BY
PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH.Toronto Normal School Students Addressed
by the Eminent Scholar—Literature, Past and Present, Discussed—Had
the King for Pupil—Value of a Private
Library—World's Best Poets.

At the opening of the Toronto Normal School the other day, the Minister of Education welcomed the students and gave a few words of advice, with special reference to the choice of books for literary reading. Mr. Hargrove mentioned "The Life of Lloyd Garrison," "The Political History of the United States," "The United Kingdom," "Oxford and Her Colleges," as books from which he had personally derived much pleasure, and which no teacher should be without. They were masterpieces of the English language and their author, Mr. Goldwin Smith, would address the students.

In opening, Dr. Smith said he did not propose to give advice or instruction. These they had, and on them rested the responsibility of acceptance. In this age of progress, which men, perhaps not very historically, called "the Victorian era," he thought education had kept full pace with every other branch of knowledge and effort, becoming almost a science, though neither teaching nor training would convey to the students the moral qualities so essential for successful teachers. Referring to mention by the Minister of Education of his connection with Oxford University, Mr. Smith said:

"As professor of history there, I had one interesting and delightful pupil, our present King. (Applause.) While he was at Oxford I used to lecture to him privately, on history, and afterwards had to go and examine him. He never allowed me to see that he was bored, and the King, who could be bored by a professor without showing that he was bored (laughter)—should be quite able to listen to a municipal address." (Renewed laughter.)

The necessity of popular education in a country such as Canada was next dealt with. Absolute monarchy, Mr. Smith said, might dispense with popular education, but without it no self-governing country could escape anarchy. The speaker was once a member of the commission appointed by the British Government to take up and report upon the scheme of popular education, and remembered quite well Mr. Lowe's cynical remark: "We are educating our masters." He (Mr. Smith) confessed, however, that the thing which reconciled him to a system of State education was his confidence in the family rather than in the State. The day might come when the State would be a power entirely wise and magnificent, raised above all factions, of people, and more like a divine being. But at present political interests were paramount and could not be denied. Of course it was extremely difficult to make the public school a centre of moral training, and people are beginning to complain because of that, and he was not surprised to note a tendency to claim State aid for private schools provided they attained a certain standard. He was afraid that the tendency of the present system was to diminish the interest of parents in their children. "What is quite certain, however," he concluded on that point, "is that we have the system and must keep it."

Much pleasure was expressed by Mr. Smith at Mr. Hargrove's remarks on private libraries, and teachers to properly care for their pupils need a careful selection of books to keep up their own culture. A thorough knowledge of one good book of real importance was worth a great deal more than a superficial knowledge of twenty great authors. Those who live in Toronto and other cities, and in some of the larger towns had easy access through the libraries to a great number of books, but there was nothing to approach the pleasure of a library of their own selection. Philosophy sounded somewhat severe, but he would advise them to read Bacon. In history they should read Macaulay, who was almost unapproached in brilliancy of style. Only in reading him, it was little to remember that he was a little too cocksure. Lord Kelvin had, once remarked: "I wish I was as cocksure as anything as Macaulay is of everything." Knight's History of England was recommended by Mr. Smith as a trustworthy, impartial and well-written book. Of course, there were histories of a higher school; Freeman, most learned and most accurate; Froude, most picturesque and less accurate. There was Gardiner, who dealt with the period of Charles I., and Lecky's admirable works.

Of the poets, Chaucer, who began the line of English poets and saw the dawn of English poetry, should be read. Then there was Shakespeare, "Read him and re-read him, over and over again," said Mr. Smith, "you can never waste an hour devoted to the reading of Shakespeare." Two men towered above all others as poets, Shakespeare and Homer. On the whole he thought Homer ranked above his great rival. He wished he could give them real access to Homer, but unless they knew Greek that was impossible. The nearest approach they could get to the English language to Homer was Scott's Marmion. Pope and Gray were also referred to. He had lately been reading again from Burns, Wordsworth and Shelley. The former, he thought, was on the whole too careless in his writing to class with the other two. Wordsworth published a great deal that was not more than ordinary. Shelley was a classic now, but he was a revolutionist, and had he lived in these days would probably have been an anarchist, not of the class that resorted to murder, but of the class that protested against the restraints of law and order. Tennyson, of course, was a remarkable poet, not only because of his mastery of the art, but

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at
Stake

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unusually extensive. I have been assured that he must have been told by some of the residents of Barham of black squirrels. I have been assured that he must have been told by some of the residents of Barham of black squirrels. I have been assured that he must have been told by some of the residents of Barham of black squirrels.

WILF LIFE IN ONTARIO

Mr. Smith said that when he first came to Ontario, he was struck by the fact that the people were so much more interested in their own history than in the history of the world. He said that he had found that the people were so much more interested in their own history than in the history of the world. He said that he had found that the people were so much more interested in their own history than in the history of the world.

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of several hundred citizens that they have seen the banks of the St. Clair River literally black with squirrels, which had presumably swam the stream to escape from one of Michigan's old-fashioned forest fires. Nowadays it is still possible for the lucky hunter to bag a dozen or so black squirrels in a day's shoot, but the time when he could gather a wagon load in the same period is gone forever. The black squirrel is wonderfully nimble on his feet, and often gets away from his pursuer if there is a hollow in his tree. A few years ago I ran across a quartette in a high elm, but before I could get a shot all four had vanished into the seclusion of a hollow limb.

An interesting phase of the squirrel question is the hostility between the reds and the blacks, a hostility that generally obtains, though the two species must fraternize and mate occasionally. I have seen squirrels that were half red and half black. Many hunters accuse the red squirrels of emasculating the blacks, but the evidence is unsatisfactory. I have shot black squirrels that had certainly been emasculated, and the general belief is that the red squirrels are guilty. I have read many columns in the sportsmen's journals up on this interesting topic, but as for myself I withhold an opinion.

A Record Salmon Pack.
The salmon pack on the Fraser River for the season just closed is without precedent in the history of the Province of British Columbia. According to the statistics which have just reached the Fisheries Department, the total pack of Sockeye salmon put up in the Fraser River canneries amounts to the enormous total of 920,313 cases of 48 one-pound tins. The pack for the canneries on the northern rivers is estimated at 200,000, and this added to the Umbagog and Okech pack will give a total for the season of nearly one million and a quarter cases. Last year the total pack of the Fraser was 316,522 cases, and the highest year previous to this was 1897, when 860,459 cases were put up.

During the past five years the average price paid to the fishermen has been about 124 cents per fish. In years previous to 1897 each canner contracted for its fish, and the range of prices was a long one, depending almost entirely on the way the fish were running. According to official figures, there has been 3,985,088 of Sockeye salmon packed on the Fraser in the past seven years. Calculating 12 fish to the case, something like 47,820,556 fish have been caught and canned in that time. With the exception of the present year's pack, this has been mostly sent to England.

Pa and His Boy With a Pipe.
A West End man came home unexpectedly the other afternoon and found his nine-year-old son in a lane near the house smoking leaves in a new clay pipe. Now Pa did not apply the quickening hand to the seat of the little lad's trousers, but took his pipe from the hand and asked him to come in and have a real good smoke. Then Pa lit his pipe and passed it to Harold, and filled with joy Harold asked if he could go up stairs and tap on the front roof window, so that the other boys could see him smoking.

And Harold tapped. Then he came down and smoked, and smiled, and swallowed. Then he burst and cried to go to bed. When he got well he told Pa he would never, never smoke again. Pa is a wise guy.

The kid is wiser than he was.

Care of Plants in Spring.

"In the spring time when plants are making strong and rapid growth, particular attention must be given to training them," writes Eben E. Rexford, in The Ladies' Home Journal. "If neglected in this respect they soon get beyond control, and the only way to bring them into subjection then is by sacrificing a good deal of the growth they have made. This there is no need of doing if the training is begun in the right way and at the right time. If a branch is inclined to outgrow others pinch off the end of it, and keep all such branches from growing by pinching until other branches have had a chance to catch up. If a plant is not bushy and compact make it so by pinching off the end of all its branches. Keep up the treatment until as many branches have started as you think the plant ought to have. If you desire a plant to grow in tree form train it to one stalk until it reaches the height you desire, and then nip off its top and force it to branch. Save the branches at the top to form the head of the tree. If you want a shrubby plant, begin the pinching process when it is small, thus forcing it to branch close to the pot. The old saying of 'as the twig is bent the tree inclines' applies pertinently to the training of plants when in the early stages of development."

Philosophical Sayings.

A cheerful face is a perpetual sunrise.

All the world is a camera. Look pleasant, please.

Poverty and squalor may be as far apart as riches and goodness.

The way is never very long if measured with a smile and song.

It is as divine a thing to be a good friend as it is to have a good friend.

In talking speak your thought and then keep still until you've thought again.

If you are cheerful everything yields a profit; if you are gloomy all is loss.

Our truly sympathetic friends would not have us to be in trouble just to give them an opportunity to tell us how very sorry they are.

"Life is nearly all strife and deception," said the mournful man.

"That's true," answered Mr. Flatson. "When you aren't making a futile attempt to coerce the cook, you have got to be jollying the janitor."

An Emblem

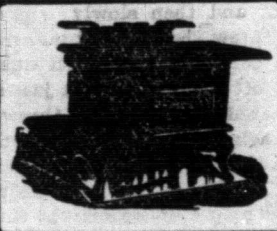
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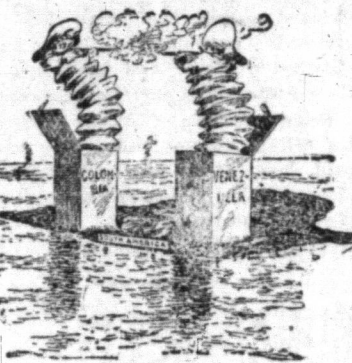
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