

far as they themselves are concerned by examining every paper they subscribe for and every book they buy, and, if found injurious, stopping the subscription of the first at once, and burning the latter, not giving them away, and thus doing injury to others in a friendly guise. There is no sympathy due the publishers of such papers or books; they care not a cent for their readers; their only aim is to gain money, and in making this money they fatten as parasites on the life they destroy.

If a book or article which is harmless seems dull and prosy, then let the reader examine himself. He should read Shakespeare, Milton, Goldsmith, Bacon, Carlyle, Gladstone, Tennyson, any of the writers of first class reputation, and if they are dull to him he can then determine that the fault is probably in himself, and not in the book he called dull. Perhaps the authors above mentioned are not to his taste, and there are some excellent men who cannot enjoy some, and certainly there are many opinions held about each of them. But there is one book in regard to which all agree that it is worthy of study. Those who call it a romance consider it a most wonderful romance; these who believe it is merely a collection of moral maxims, also believe that the closer those maxims are adhered to the better for mankind; and those who know it is God's word hold its principles as of greater value than life, a book for which, if it was necessary, they would die. There is no need to name the book. No one has yet died for Shakespeare, or Homer, but many for the Bible, and if it is dull to any one there is the authority of all classes, from highest to lowest, from the most ignorant in the world's eye to the most brilliant intellects, to say that the fault is not in the book, but in the reader who finds it dull, and nowhere else.

In such a case it is possible that all good books may seem dull, because of the reader's inability to grasp their meaning, and it is fortunate that there is a cure. It is simply the old one of "total abstinence;" total abstinence from unhealthy literature, and the reading that only which is good. It is not best to begin at once with the highest class of reading, any more than it is advisable for the inebriate, with his diseased, worn-out stomach, to attempt, when giving up the use of intoxicants, to live on lumbermen's fare. The diseased brain as well as the diseased stomach must, step by step, be strengthened, till able to obtain the position it

long before should have had. By perseverance the pleasure and profit from reading good books will be found to be more enjoyable than that obtained from the excitement induced by reading trash, and the reader having learned this should find out—if it has not come to his or her knowledge before—that the joy of serving God is incomparably greater than that of following the goddess pleasure, whose bubbles are grasped only to burst in the outstretched hand.

#### A STEP IN ADVANCE.

The wonderful interest now being taken by numerous friends throughout the country in the more solid establishment of the **NEW DOMINION MONTHLY** shows very clearly that the recent efforts made to increase its value have been fully appreciated. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago the hope was expressed that the increase in receipts for the magazine would soon reach a hundred per cent. The increase for the first twenty-two days of the month of August last was exactly **TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY** per cent. greater than for the corresponding period of 1875. It is possible that this percentage may yet increase, but we will be satisfied if it continues at this point for a year, which would give the magazine a circulation of over nine thousand copies in less than a year from now. Seven thousand was asked for, but ten thousand would be better. It is said that when a young man saves \$1000 his fortune is as good as made; when the **NEW DOMINION MONTHLY** is in the position to pay its expenses all profits will be put into improvements, until Canada has as good a magazine as is possible in England or the United States. This may not be considered possible by many, but such is the case nevertheless. Canada's manufactures, scientific specimens, and selection of school requisites, all took prominent if not first prizes at the world's competitive examination at Philadelphia, and the same quality of brain which gives her rank amongst the foremost there will also, if given opportunity, make her literature as well known. Canada's muscular development, as shown in the rowing competitions, was acknowledged to equal, if not surpass, that of any or all the nations there assembled, and the national spirit which caused the whole Dominion to rejoice in the success in that respect will yet place her writers and scholars in the world's first rank.