

ligion mixed through them to give them a moral coloring, but paint and powder, however genuine, have never yet made a beautiful woman, nor will the little bit of moral coloring united with the pale tints of spirituality that enter into a great many of the Sunday school books ever make noble and strong characters of those who read them. The sensational element that is found in some of these has created an appetite for that class of literature which is in every sense debasing and demoralizing. If the path of life must have its divergent roads, which eventually turn us round, let us so far as possible restrict the entrance to those wrong ways to the periods of life when the person is capable of judging for themselves and able to restrain self sufficiently to choose the right.

To supply the place of the above, we might suggest the historical and biographical, which have always swayed a golden sceptre over youth and led those of riper years to deeds of nobleness and wisdom. Of all our sources of knowledge and improvement, these should be the most fruitful. As we look back through the medium of history, we can see the multiplicity of forms of government and the diversified manner in which they affected the people governed by them, and so learn how to govern now. And those boys or girls are few who cannot be stirred to nobler and purer lines, and stronger efforts towards self-control by the simple narrative of lives of good men and good women. What child does not like to hear mother tell the story of Daniel in the lions' den, of David, the shepherd boy, and his exploits against the wild beasts and Goliath? What boy does not like to hear of Jonathan and his armor bearer stealing into the camp of the Philistines and putting the whole army to flight? or what girl is not held in raptures by the account of Deborah and her victory over Israel's enemies? or of Dorcas and her kind deeds to the poor? Thus the greatest book has seized on the greatest and best methods and subject matter for instruction for young and old, and has set us an example that we seem all

A well-known writer of the Western States says: "Next to letter-writing, there is, in modern times, no species of composition of which so much is done as news writing. The innumerable items which fill the news columns of the daily and weekly papers are enormous in amount, and constitute the chief reading of the public—the daily bread of our literary life." From this it must appear that the newspapers of the day are a potent factor among the ruling influences of the time. The majority of these, however, have so far sacrificed their noble calling for gold, and their upright independent walk for the chance to cut and abuse their political opponents and blackmail the leader of the opposite party, that their sway has almost been reduced to those who blindly serve the same political party. It is a deplorable state of things, and speaks volumes against the present literary tastes when, "The daily bread of our literary life" has become begrimed with the dust of slander and is served up to us with a carrion odor. Thus instead of correcting error and teaching sound principles whereby to govern the life they are whetting the basest appetites of the basest of men, only to gratify them with the basest of food. This, of course, cannot be applied to scientific magazines, a great many reviews and religious periodicals whose influence is ever for truth and knowledge. There are many other forms of writings which have done much in their time, and some of them still do a great deal to build up true manhood, some to tear it down. Among the former might be mentioned the writings of Samuel Johnstone, whose sharp criticisms did much to waken the conscience and quicken the mental faculties of men of his time, so that they could discriminate between the foolish and sensible, the evil and good. In this line also comes the clear, strong logic of John Wesley, whose for clearness and force, yet meekness of spirit, have never been equalled. He stands alone as the only man who while in the midst of heated controversy never once gave utterance to an unkind word