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“TOO MANY BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS ALREADY.”

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But what kind of books? Historical and biographical, travels and school books; novels in abundance. But how many *religious* books have you? Do you expend ten dollars a year in this way? Perhaps among all your purchases not one of a religious character has lately been procured. A good book is a good friend, and exercises a powerful influence on the character, preserving, as in a phial, the best thoughts of the best men. You yourself may be so engaged in business as not to have much leisure, but your *family* will read; and if you do not furnish them with books of a good character, *they* will read such as indispose them for the duties of life, or dispose them for the follies and vices which so abound. A good book is then not only an antidote for idleness, but it supplies the place of reading positively injurious. It introduces the reader to the best thoughts of the best men, and furnishes a delightful occupation in many hours which might otherwise be thrown away; for, according to Fenelon, “Disquiet which preys on other men is unknown to those fond of reading.”

You have *old* religious books; but you must have new also, to prevent the others from moulding in the memory. You must have such as meet the wants of the age, and are adapted to the changes of society. Hence new books are generally preferred, and unless religious truth be presented to the young in an attractive garb, for the most part it will not be read. You are careful in introducing a stranger to your family: be equally so as to the *books* you introduce, that they may be such as will leave a blessing, and not a curse behind. Nor can the usual plea of expense be alleged as an excuse, for such is the facility for printing, that books can now be bought at one half of their former cost. A whole library, containing one hundred volumes, can be obtained for ten dollars; and it is difficult to see how such a sum could accomplish more good. If you, as a Christian parent, wish your children to be intelligent Christians, renew your supply of proper books, and you shall find the investment cheap. A thought contained therein may, in its influence on your family, save many hours of woe. An old writer says that “Any person who hoards up his money, instead of laying it out in such a charity, should be condemned to the mines.”

The same remarks apply to a *religious paper*, only that the expense is still less; being three, two, and even one dollar a year for a paper which will visit you weekly, and bring to your house some hundred different articles, each containing a good thought. You will see how your Heavenly Father governs the world, and particularly His Church: what the missionary is doing,—what other Christian bodies are engaged in. You will meet with gems of thought in prose and poetry; extracts from the best writings; encouragements to good and warnings against evil, with examples of both. And thus you will sustain an agency which, at present, is indispensable to our Church's due success. The dearest paper is cheap indeed when we consider the influence of fifty-two such in a year, read as they are by all the family. Episcopalians, though as a body inferior to none in intelligence, are greatly deficient in this respect, for while nearly every Methodist takes his Church paper, whole congregations of ours take scarcely one. If you have not done so before, subscribe to one now. (Of course you will punctually pay for it, otherwise it would not be to you a *religious paper*.) You will find it a corrector not only of other papers filled