

books in the world—if such a work were procured and used by young men, it would tell on their future power and influence. Many a young man has read hundreds of volumes of stories, has fought the battles with his heroes, has sighed over their defeats and rejoiced in their successes, but he has thereby attained no solid culture. If he were to read in a newspaper an allusion to Charlemagne or Frederick the Great, he would be utterly at a loss to tell when and where they lived, who and what they were, or what they did ; but with a Cyclopedia, costing less than a hundred dollars for its sixteen great volumes, he could read half a dozen pages on Charlemagne, or a compact sketch of any other eminent man in the world's history, and ever after be at home in it. That is getting the juice of the subject and being able to depend implicitly on its correctness.

If he had a library of fifty thousand volumes, containing the history of Charlemagne and others, in bulky works written by partisans, he has not the time to read them ; his mind is hungry for knowledge, and his Cyclopedia will give him on almost any subject all that he will need to know. Besides, the Cyclopedia cites books on the subjects treated of, so that if he wish to extend his inquiries on any particular subject, he may do so. We have known men, not a few, who passed their twenty-fifth year just able to read, who have attained to eminence in literature and science by a course of self-instruction.

An active mind hungry for knowledge, or at least mental excitement, will do reading enough in novels