

reaches its most intense form about the fifteenth year, is not a sign of unusual artistic ability, but of the awakening of the new life. The brightly-colored pictures of children or animals in action, which took the fancy of the child, yield the first place in the devotion of the youth to "quiet pictures of still life or nature" or to those that "represent deep feeling or portray the soul of the artist." The child's delight in music with a strong rhythm gives way to the youth's love of quiet, soft, dreamy music that deeply moves the emotions.

Perhaps most characteristic of all, is the fondness for solitude, which rests on the newly-awakened love of nature. "In solitude talent is perfected." In solitude the genius broods upon his visions. In solitude the future of the youth takes shape in dreams and the passion for their realization gathers strength. It is in solitude that the youth finds Nature sympathizing with his moods. Thus one writes, "I became fond of solitude. The mystery of the world, the key to unlock it, some Holy Grail to harmonize me and the world, were sought. The open secret of nature seemed just before me, but always slipping away. The world was strange and refused to become familiar. I was a wanderer in infinite space and time." Another expresses delight in spending whole days alone in the woods; another in the weird grandeur of the woods in rain and storm. To some nature becomes a real, almost a human, thing. The earth and all things growing upon it are felt almost as a part of their personality.

Is not the secret of this passion for nature to be found in the sudden revelation of his inner life, that comes to the youth and awakens in him an intense curiosity about an inner life behind the shadows of the things of sense? Sympathy prompts him to reveal himself to other human beings, and to crave from them a similar revelation of the life within. In nature, too, he seeks and finds sympathy. Thus one writes, "Under the influence of the silent and over-arching trees I felt a strange, light, soothing melancholy." "When sad, I like the trees for company. They give me a restful feeling." Another says, "The beauty of the hills, the

changing lights, the eddying waters, so affected me that I could not contain my feelings any longer." The passion for nature, the fondness for solitude, spring from a new sense of an inner life in the world about the youth, which throbs in unison with the life within, that has recently welled up in the stream of consciousness.

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BOOKS FOR TEACHERS

The Lessons for the coming six months of this year take us back to the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon, the first three kings of Israel. In the opening lessons we catch a last glimpse of Samuel as he sets apart first Saul and then David, to the kingly office created in response to the demand of the people, while Jonathan, one of the most beautiful of Old Testament characters, appears on the scene in connection with his friend David. The course of the history is interrupted more than once to make room for some of the Psalms.

There are many books on this period and on the great figures who moved in it, which the teacher may read with profit. Of these, we mention, with the price, those which will be found most helpful. The price named in each case includes postage.

The best commentaries on the two Books of Samuel are those by H. P. Smith in the International Critical Commentary (\$3.00, net); by Kirkpatrick in the Cambridge Bible (2 vols., 60c. per vol., net); and by Blaikie in the Expositor's Bible (2 vols., \$1.16 per vol., net). The first of these, while it is written specially for those acquainted with Hebrew, throws a great deal of light on the text, even for the English reader. Kirkpatrick's commentary is closely packed with the results of the best scholarship, given in clear language and a simple style. Blaikie abounds in applications to every-day life of the lessons to be drawn from the sacred history.

On the Psalms the student of Hebrew should not fail to consult Delitzsch, (3 vols., \$2.00 per vol.). Perowne also (2 vols., \$4.00) is a rich mine of suggestion. The English reader will find his wants met with great