## READING AND EDUCATION

Mere reiding will never suffice for the needs of an uneducated mind. The mental food which really nourishes us cannot be imbibed through a glass tube, while we sit luxuriously in an easy-chnir. Every one the mind has to be enrned, masticated, digested, and assininilited, before it docs us gested, and
much good.
Reading, it is true, has its important of fice in education, and, besides, there are various ways of reading. I knew a business man in New York who, though he could not get more than half an hour a day for reading, seomed to mo to get il Jiberal educition out of, one book, Grote's "History of Grecee."
Ho sat down before this great work with such a keen appetite for tho knowledge it contained ; he read it so slowly, so carefully, and with so much reflection; he got so witiny side-lights upon it from other sources, and talked about it so much with his frionds, that ho became, in the course of the two years during which the
 all that apperitains to the listory mud literiature of Greece.' Other readers will dawrlle over books from youth to lunary agre, and remain to the last ignormit and uninformed. Frumkin's eximple instructs us on this point. When he left school for grood, and printer, he wis but twelvo yoars of age, nued pinter, he was but twelve yoars of age, and
nearly all ho hatd in the way of education nearly all ho hatd in the way
was a hunger for knowledge.
was a hunger for knowledge.
At tirst, he did little but read. He spent all his money in buying books, is well as all his spare time in reading them. But he soon found that reading alone would not make him an educated person, and he proceeded to act upon this discovery in is very rational mamer. He took the very method which is both casiest and best for boys of the present day.
At school he had been unable to understand arithmetic. Twice he hatd given it up as i hopeless puzale, aud finilly left school almost wholly ignoriunt of the sub)ject. But he had no sooner talken hold of business as a printer's boy than he found his ignorance of figures extremely inconvenient.'
When he was :bout fourteen he took up for the third time the " Cocker's Arithmetic" which had battled him at school, ance ciphered all through it with ease and pleasure. He then mastered a work upoi mavigation, which included the rudiments of geometry, and thus tasted the incexhaustible charm of mathematies.
He pursucd a similar course in accquiring the art of composition, in which, it length, he excelled most of the men of his time. When he was but a boy of sixteen how wrote so well that the pieces which he slyly sent to his brother's piper were thought to have been written ly some of the most learned men in the colony. Indeed, ho elited the newspeppor when he was sixteen years of age, while his brother was contined in prisom for a libel.
He committel one groat error in his self-educition-he half-starvod his body to buy food for his mind, making his dinner of a more needs ahmadint and nowishing food that he who is doing mental labor.
No doubt young Benjamin picked up some good meals it his father's house during the week, or he could not have acomphished whit wo know he did accomphish in self-education; Half the students who "break down" owe their failure to a system of nourishment which is either crrone-
ous or insufficient.-Jomes Parton, in ous or insumiciont
Touth's Companion.

## JOHN BARTRAM.

Sometimes the desire for knowledge arises suddenly in the mind. Jolm Bartram was a young firmer near Pliliadelphia when. Frauklin wiss risiug printer there. Ono hot day, whilo ho was giving his phough horses a rest under at tree, ho picked by chnuce a daisy, ass ho sitt on the strass, and begion to examine its structure.
He was anazed to discover whit an elsgant and dainty thing it was, and he felt it pang of shame at his total ignopance of the marvels of miture among which he had passed his life.
That very day he rode one of his plought horses to Philadelphia in quest of at book

## The fitistakes of mu fife.

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## 3. My mistakes his free grace will oover, My sins he will wash awaty, <br> And tho feet, that shriuk and falter, Shall walk through the gitess of day:

 Aud my spirit is sick with sin, Ant searce can seo for woeping,that could explain to him the structure and growth of plants. Me could find but one, a great folio in Latin, of which he knew nothing. Ho bought, it nevertheless, und with it a Latin grammar and dictionary, all of which he brought home on his horse, and in three montles ho legran to be able to grope and strugsle his way to the neaniug of his big Latin book.
Bartrim becane the lenting betanist of Ancrici, spent all his diys in the study and culture of phats, fovinded in Philadelphitis a botemic graten which Washington visited atad Tranklin admived, and served his coustry by introducines from other linds and zones atl the phints and nees he culd pous of that phomised to trees he conta hear of that promisat to Sive in the chine of the Grited stintes. Sovalian hats more useful life. He reared a a lovelier or more useful lifa. He reared a son also who comtinued his work and wrote his history. And it all begran with picking it dasisy to pieces muler a tr
Parton, in Youth's Compernion.

Playta Cards for pastime, is regarded as inimuocent:unusement, but soon bocomes a passion, and leads an win to forego home, family, businoss and pleisure, for the exciting scenes of the curcl-tiblc. The presence of culture and genius may embellish, but can never diguify it. It is the resort of the stinvod in soul and intellect. It camot reeonmend itself to the favor of Christian people. Jr. Holland, the accomplishorl Americim writer, sitys :- I have this moment ringing in, my cars the dying injunution of my father's early friend, hevep your won from carcls. Over them Fithers ind mothers, keep your sons from curds in tho "home circle."-Tocrfue.

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