

The *Argosy* for February contains an article on "Reading" which, though the subject be trite, has much that cannot be said too often. The view taken is thus summed up: "The reader should master books and not allow books to master him," a statement which to us seems to furnish the key to proper intellectual culture. Indiscriminate and careless reading is worse than no reading at all. A summary is given of the tenets of Mormonism, that blot upon the fair escutcheon of western civilization. We trust the *Argosy* is right in stating that the time is near at hand when it shall be swept away.

Articles on Chaucer and Spencer are contained in the current issue of the *Messenger*. Though that on the latter is rather historical than critical, we are pleased to see these old knights of the quill being brought into notice. The remoteness of the time in which they lived, and the archaic form of their writings, cause them to be perhaps too much neglected by students of the present day. The exchange department of the *Messenger* is particularly good.

The C. M. B. A. Journal, though not a college production, is, we think, not out of our province, since it is the exponent of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, a society which is doing much good to all, but especially to young men in Canada. The paper is a weekly and gives much news and information about the society.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The International Educational Association will hold its annual convention at Toronto, from the 14th to the 17th of July next. The meeting promises to be the largest and most important yet held by that Association, as it will probably be attended by some fifteen thousand of those actually engaged in educational matters from all parts of the United States and Canada.

The many notices of the recent death of Prof. Henry Schlieman, the successful archaeologist, calls up not only his own work in that field, but also turns attention to the great interest which has been taken in such investigations of late years with such good results that more has been learned of ancient government and people from the ruins of their cities and the

translatable records in the last half century than in the previous five hundred years. Henry Schlieman, the author-explorer, was the son of a Lutheran clergyman, who, by his frequent talks to his son on Pompeii and Herculaneum and his reading him Homer early filled the future explorer with a strong desire to behold the ruins of the famous Ilium which he finally did, but not before he became a clerk, cabin-boy, adventurer, merchant, Greek millionaire, and finally a scientist and scholar.

He located ancient Troy, opened the citadel of Mycenae and dug out the Acropolis of Athens. What he learned he told fully in several books in English, German and French. Dr. Schlieman became an American citizen, residing in Indianapolis. He always so signed himself, not so much perhaps on account of his love for his adopted country as for the privileges it gave him as an author.

His wife is a Greek lady, who took equal delight in the pursuits of her husband. Troy, Homer, Schlieman will be spoken of together; the city itself, the poet who immortalized it, and the enthusiast who successfully located the scenes in the Iliad.

The dioceses in the United States having Catholic populations of 200,000 and over are: New York, 800,000; Boston, 510,000; Chicago, 460,000; Philadelphia, 400,000; New Orleans, 300,000; St. Louis, 280,000; Brooklyn, 230,000; Baltimore and San Francisco, each 220,000; Cleveland, 209,000; Albany, 200,000.

Eighty-seven thousand three hundred and seventy-five of the total Indian population of 277,020 are Catholics. For the Catholic Indians there are 104 churches, 81 priests and 58 schools, which have an attendance of 3,096. Members of several sisterhoods teach in the schools. The number of baptisms in 1890 was 3,807 children and 245 adults.

There are 151,614 Catholic negroes in the United States. They have 27 churches for their exclusive use, and 33 priests attend to their spiritual wants. There are 110 schools for colored children, which are attended by 6,460 pupils.