THE PORTFOLIO.

girls. A want of good reading in a college is a great draw back, but this is not the case with us. The time you are now wasting or putting to some good purpose is worth more to you, girls, than any that is coming. You have heard this a dozen times and it will do you good to hear it the same number of times more. It is criminal to read trash. You have a memory and you are blessed with a greater or less amount of intelligence, both of these are being ruined every day by trashy novel reading This is the the time for fires and I beg of you put the match to them. "Can you loan me some thing to read." is the crv heard here; but when a book, one which everyone should read, is offered and refused because it requires thought while reading, I think it is time to say something. "Reading makes the full man," says Bacon, and the choice as to whether our head shall be crammed with nonsense, which we will one day be ashamed of, or whether our reading shall be giving us thoughts to be used in the future, is for each to decide. Always endeavor to retain the writer's best thoughts and make use of them. Everybody has not original ideas and the next best thing is, for those who have not, to see and be able to use others. A reason given for the success of Queen Elizabeth's reign is that she possessed the faculty of seeing genius in men and choosing them as her advisers. Perhaps it would not be entirely lost time to name a few books worthy of careful perusal. Of all prose perhaps history is the most useful and forms a not unpleasant topic of conversation. Hallam's "Middle Ages," should be read by all. Gibbon, Macauley, Carlvle and Hume, are some of our finest writers in this department of literature. Next we would place Biography and Essays. In writing we find man's best thoughts, and in essays, above all other divisions of literature, the gems shine. Do not fail to read Macauley and Sidney Smith. In biography, Boswell's "Life of Johnson" comes first Southy's sketch of Nelson, and Lockhart's "Life of Scott" are as readable as any novel.

All at some time read poetry and in this choose the classical. Our poetry has

reached perfection in Pope. Shakespeare writes a life-long study, and it has been said that to know Tennyson's "In Memoriam," thoroughly, would be a liberal education.

A thousand years ago, the few writers dated their letters 888; a thousand years hence, if writing is then used to convey thoughts, the ladies will date their letters 2888. Will the next thousand years bring us as many changes as the last has brought? We look back and say to ourselves, "we are glad that we did not live in 888." Will the people of 2888 say "that they are glad they did not live in 1888?" Will the locomotive.—

> "Bumping, jumping, rocking, roaring, Like forty thousand giants snoring."

go over the country and through the Will the still small voice of tunnels? the telegraph be heard? Will they plough the deep as we do now? Will they require as much food to sustain the body or will they devise some plan to keep up the human system with more nutritious food taken in smaller quantities? What sciences, that we feel so proud of understanding, will they laugh out of existence? Will Edison be a Roger Bacon to this V'ill they harness the new people? balloon, ride through space and visit the moon? Will they-well, will they do anything that we are now doing? We will seen as savages to this future people. We know that they will read the same Bible; that the piling up of the waters of the Red Sea will be just as interesting; that the Ten Commandments written by Moses will still be in force. We know that Shakespeare will be perused with delight; that the MSS. of Spenser, or Byron, will be invaluable. Our habits and manner of living will seem just as strange as those of the people of 888. We hope that they will settle disputes without going to war; that the Golden Rule will become universal. We feel that they will reverence the Deity more than we do; that infidelity will be a word not found in their language. What possibilities are wrapped up in a human being to be developed by future generations? What gifts, that now lie dormant, will be in common use in 2888, we do not

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