

on *what* he reads, and, unless we teach *what* as well as *how*, we have made little real progress. Even if we take the most optimistic view, we can get little satisfaction out of statistics bearing on this question. The mass of the people read gossip or trashy fiction and consider their tastes are above the ordinary if they can appreciate light magazine articles. It is extremely doubtful if the percentage of English-speaking people who really enjoy Chaucer, Shakspeare, Milton, Wordsworth or Tennyson, is any greater than it was a quarter or even a half century ago.

What has this to do with Nature study? In my opinion it has everything to do with it. In Fra Lippo Lippi, Browning says, "We're so made that we love them first when we see them painted, things we have passed perhaps a hundred times nor cared to see." Here we have a great truth, and it makes no difference whether the artist has painted with colour or with words. Unless his work means something to us, we cannot interpret it. Every great poet from Homer to Tennyson has been a lover of Nature. Indeed we may almost say that he has been a great poet because he was first a lover of Nature. Every lover of Nature knows something of the poet's thoughts, even though he lacks the power to convey them to others. It is quite impossible, however, to teach either child or man to appreciate the beauties of poetry, unless he has had the necessary training in Nature study, because the subjects of Nature study are the raw material out of which the poet forms his pictures.

Prof. Halleck, of Yale, has, after a careful study, found internal evidence to prove that Shakspeare knew the names, notes, habits, eggs and plumage of at least forty birds. Note the following from Shakspeare :

" I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine."

Try if you can to leave out of this picture the wild-thyme, the oxlips, the violet, the woodbine, the roses and the eglantine. Really nothing is left that could convey any intelligible meaning. May we not say then that, not only is a knowledge of nature a joy within itself and an ample reward to a diligent student, but also