

of Fiction, but for myself I believe that as much cultivation, education and improvement in taste is drawn from good novels as from any other branch of literature.

He who objects to the reading of novels should also, to be consistent, condemn the reading of poetry, the study of astronomy and the investigation of all abstract problems, for, from the point of view of "the practical man," they are all equally useless. We cannot be too careful however in the selection of our books, for it is our duty and has been our constant aim to exclude from the Library all books of atheistical teachings, and all works of an immoral or prurient nature. It is a rule of the Library that no polemical works upon religion shall be purchased out of the funds of the Library, and if we are so particular in a Christian city to exclude such books as these, we certainly would not be justified in spending the people's money on works from which nothing but harm can be derived. Among the cardholders are a great number of the youth of the city, and we owe it to them and to their parents that no mental or moral injury shall be done to them by this institution.

It is very gratifying to say that no complaint has ever been made by any citizen of Hamilton against the Librarian or his assistants, and no servants of the public have in my opinion performed their duties more faithfully and cheerfully than they.

I thank you, gentlemen, for having appointed me your Chairman for the year 1894, and I now retire hoping that I have given you no reason to regret your action.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. LYNCH-STAUTON.

February 7th, 1895.