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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE PLEASURE AND PROFIT OF READING

Carlyle has said that a collection of books is a university. What a pity that the thousands of ambitious, energetic men who missed their opportunities for an education at the school age, and feel crippled by their loss, fail to catch the significance of this, fail to realize the tremendous cumulative possibilities of that great life-improver, that admirable substitute for a college or university education — reading.

Eliza Burritt, working all day in a blacksmith's shop, yet through his industry and love of reading and study he became one of the greatest linguists in the world, and won for himself the honorable sobriquet of "the learned blacksmith." Speaking of Burritt's profound learning, Edward Everett said, "It is enough to make one who has had good opportunities for education hang his head in shame."

There is a wealth within the reach of the poorest mechanic and day-laborer in this country that kings in olden times could not possess, and that is the wealth of a well read, cultured mind. In this newspaper age, this age of cheap books and periodicals, there is no excuse for ignorance, for a coarse, untrained mind. To-day no one is so handicapped, if he have health and the use of his faculties, that he can not possess himself of wealth that will enrich his whole life, and enable him to compare with the most cultured members. No one is so poor but that it is possible for him to lay hold of that which will broaden his mind, which will inform and improve him, and lift him out of the brute stage of existence into their godlike realm of knowledge.

How heroic we feel after reading the inspiring life-story of some one who has achieved great things under difficulties! We feel almost as if we were the hero ourselves for the time being, just as we do sometimes after seeing some great character in a stirring play. For the moment we assume the personality which has stirred our sympathy and aroused our admiration. We feel that we actually have the qualities which we admire.

What would a business man accomplish if he did not attend to important matters until he had time that was not needed for anything else? The good business man goes to his office in the morning and plunges at once into the important work of the day. He knows perfectly well that if he attends to all the little things that come up, sees everybody that wants to see him, and answers all the questions people want to ask, that it will be time to close his office before he gets to his main business. He manages so that he can find time for the things we love. If one is hungry for knowledge, if one yearns for self-improvement, if one has a task to read, he will manage so that he can find time to read, to improve himself. He is not a man who says "I have no time," but a man who says "I have time."

DOES A WASHING JUST LIKE PLAY!

Nothing else will more quickly ruin a good mind than familiarity with frivolous, superficial books. Even though they may not be actually vicious, the reading of books which are not true to life, which carry home no great lesson, teach no sane or healthful philosophy, but are merely written to excite the passions, to stimulate a morbid curiosity, will ruin the best of minds in a very short time. They tend to destroy the ideals and to ruin the taste for all good reading.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

A boy of thirteen was often brought to Judge Lindsey's Juvenile Court in Denver, charged with truancy. Notwithstanding the Judge admonished him many times, it did not seem to do him any good. The teacher kept writing, "Tim will stay out of school to work."

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Kellogg's TOASTED CORN FLAKES advertisement with image of a box and text: Kellogg's meets hunger more than half-way and it stays by you to the next meal.

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