



THE POET-LAUREATE ON READING FOR THE WOUNDED

ROBERT BRIDGES, the British Poet Laureate, spoke a fortnight ago on the needs for books for wounded soldiers in hospitals, and the solace which reading affords.

This meeting has a definite practical purpose. It is Oxford's response to an appeal to give up our books for the use of the wounded men in the hospitals.

About these books then. There are two classes of them. The first is the light literature: novels, stories, and so on. Of these a sufficient account is that they are used for distraction.

The war has revealed how much of our ordinary behavior is founded on sound instinct. All of us, when we are harassed or distressed, seek alleviation in mental distraction.

The grave Bishop Butler tells us that our thoughts are never so idle as when we are reading—he did not mean the reading of his sermons—he meant, I suppose, that when we are truly thinking, our thoughts are self-generated within us.

Now this form of mental distraction has been proved efficacious under the most severe trial, even in the very shadow of death.

These light books, then, are an essential comfort to the soldier, and necessary also to the wounded, whose condition of constant pain and nervous weakness often calls as much for distraction as the anxiety, perpetual peril, and strain of the trenches; and the books have to be provided in unlimited quantities, nor need we distinguish much among them.

Also the men from overseas are more inquiring and practical than our home folk, and are demanding text-books, books of reference, handbooks of science, and so on.

But beside these two classes I would hope that there is another—men, that is, who are brought by their experience and circumstances to seek for knowledge; and this may well be. Plunged suddenly from compulsory activity and vigilance into compulsory inaction and tedium, they would, if their bodies were fairly at ease, no longer have the same appetite for mere distraction; and the mind, being set at liberty at the very moment that the body is confined, would naturally find congenial pastime in study.

text-books, out of which I learned and which are so useful to refer to! This shelf of selected stories where my visitors would so delightedly browse! Well, all these scruples must be brushed aside, and we may at least reckon that the more books we send the better chance there is of their being rightly distributed.

Let us also remember what the philosophers are nowadays telling us about private property. I am not myself one of those who think the institution of private property to be a blind injustice, a mere relic of barbarism.

And how many of my own books are idle possessions! Books that I have bought because I knew that I ought to read them, and should not read unless I possessed them, and which yet I have never read.

And if we could look into the minds of these men, shut in by the drab walls which for weeks and months may be their sole landscape—if we could look into the minds of these men, should we not see them full of that longing for expansion, that craving for escape which the wide domain of Bookland, with its gigantic visions of Memory, Wisdom, and Beauty, is so well able to satisfy?

There is a form of mental disease by which a man may lose all memory of his own past, and therewith his identity, and become a mere nonentity to himself and his fellows. And so would the world be without this memory of itself.

Bookland holds to a man as in a mirror the pictured story of his existence. There are the edifices and ruins of all his works and days, the monuments and sanctuaries of his divine mysteries, the battlefields of his conquest or defeat.

Bookland is such a magic land. Give a man "Twenty books bound in black and red" and there may be no end to his wanderings. He may pass the bounds of his little planet, and sail among the stars, or go roaming in spiritual spheres, where material conditions melt away, and he knows himself for what he is, a breath of the eternal Being who exists in all things.

Now in that land Thought is self-sufficient; Thought is its own true distraction; for it leads to reality, to a world free from the accidents of this life; a world which the great friends of mankind animate with their personalities, omnipresent and immortal, gathering perpetual homage of new beauty from the successive races of mankind.

Where but in Bookland can you talk with Socrates or Montaigne? What living man can you be so sure of finding alive to-morrow morning as the incomparable Chevalier de La Mancha, or that old leech-gatherer who for ever on the lonely moor evokes the deathless verses which William Wordsworth wrote in his book?

any scruple in sending them books which we might judge to be somewhat above their intelligence—books, that is, which we might think needed some proficiency to make use of; for the mere contact with higher levels of thought, or strange branches of thought, may be of importance.

Charles Darwin used to read the scientific periodical called Nature through from end to end every week, including the proceedings of the learned societies, and the mathematics which he could not understand, because, as he said, he thought it a useful discipline, to keep himself conscious of his limitations.

And these men need initiation into this knowledge of their ignorance—to perceive how vast the field of knowledge is; how old and difficult the problems that seem to them so new and simple.

And if they are earnest and willing learners, as many of them are, they will advance on that path. For when once the appetite for wisdom is excited it is not lightly quenched.—Reprinted from The New York Evening Post.

MINARD'S LINIMENT is the only Liniment asked for at my store and the only one we keep for sale. All the people use it. HARLIN FULTON, Pleasant Bay, C. B.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Grand Manan Steamship Company will be held at their office at North Head, July 4th, 1918, on arrival of boat.

I have opened my Cottage for a few Guests Terms: \$3.00 per day Apply to ISABELLE VENNELL Campobello, N. B. (FAMOUS SUMMER RESORT)

TENDERS for the supply of Coal for the Prince Arthur School will be received by the Secretary of the Board of School Trustees of St. Andrews up to noon on Friday 28th June.

WANTED—at once, Bell Boys and Table Girls at 48-49 KENNEDY'S HOTEL

States, died, 1836; Coronation of Queen Victoria, 1838; Massacre at Cawnpore, India, 1857; Maria Mitchell, American astronomer, died, 1889; Assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife at Sarajevo, Bosnia, 1914.

YOU MUST REGISTER! If you have not already registered you must register to-day. Every person in Canada of 16 years of age and over—even if of 116 years of age—is required to register not later than June 22—to-day—in order that the Government may know the man and woman power of the Dominion and thereby know how to apply that power to the best advantage in the further prosecution of the war.

The Tide Tables given above are for the Port of St. Andrews. For the following places the time of tides can be found by applying the correction indicated, which is to be subtracted in each case:

Grand Harbor, G. M., 18 min. Seal Cove, " 30 min. Fish Head, " 11 min. Welshpool, Campob., 6 min. 8 min. Eastport, Me., 8 min. 10 min. L'Etang Harbor, 7 min. 13 min. Lepreau Bay, 9 min. 15 min.

NOTICE The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Grand Manan Steamship Company will be held at their office at North Head, July 4th, 1918, on arrival of boat.

SUMMER BOARDERS AT THE SEASIDE I have opened my Cottage for a few Guests Terms: \$3.00 per day Apply to ISABELLE VENNELL Campobello, N. B. (FAMOUS SUMMER RESORT)

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FOR SALE—A dark chestnut horse, 1050 lbs. Perfectly sound and kind. Apply to WILLIAM LANK, Wilson's Beach, Campobello

FOR SALE—My House on Adolphus Street, recently occupied by Mr. G. W. Babbitt, Manager of Bank of Nova Scotia.

MINIATURE ALMANAC. NEW BRUNSWICK DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME. PHASES OF THE MOON. June. Last Quarter, 2nd, 1h. 20m. a.m. New Moon, 8th, 7h. 3m. p.m. First Quarter, 16th, 10h. 12m. a.m. Full Moon, 24th, 7h. 38m. a.m.

Table with columns: Day of Week, Day of Month, Sun Rises, Sun Sets, H. Water a.m., H. Water p.m., L. Water a.m., L. Water p.m.

PORT OF ST. ANDREWS. CUSTOMS. Thos R. Wren, C. Hector, D. C. Rollins, D. G. Hanson, Pres. Officer

SHIPPING NEWS. PORT OF ST. ANDREWS. The publication of the usual shipping news in this column is suspended for the time being.

For Sale ENGINEER'S TRANSIT THEODOLITE. New, Latest Pattern, with Zeiss Telescope and Trough Compass.

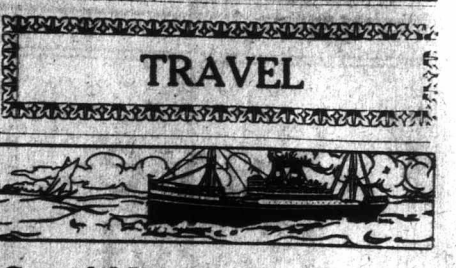
BEACON PRESS COMPANY ST. ANDREWS, N. B. CHARLOTTE COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS. ST. ANDREWS, N. B.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE ST. ANDREWS, N. B. R. A. STUART, HIGH SHERIFF. Time of Sittings of Courts in the County of Charlotte.

The Winter Term of The FREDERICTON BUSINESS COLLEGE. Opens Monday, Jan. 7, 1918. Pamphlet giving particulars of our course of study.

Doing Our Bit. The most patriotic service we can render is to continue to fit young people to take the places of those who have enlisted.

Try a Beacon Adv. S. Kerr, Principal. Readers who appreciate this paper may give their friends the opportunity of seeing a copy.



Grand Manan S. S. Company. After June 1, and until further notice, boat of this line will leave Grand Manan, Mon. 7 a. m. for St. John.

MARITIME STEAMSHIP CO., LTD. TIME TABLE. On and after June 1st, 1918, a steamer of this company leaves St. John every Saturday, 7.30 a. m.

CHURCH SERVICES. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Rev. W. M. Fraser, B. Sc., Pastor. Services every Sunday, 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH—Rev. Father O'Keefe, Pastor. Services Sunday at 10.30 a. m. and 7.30 p. m.

ST. ANDREWS POSTAL GUIDE. ALBERT THOMPSON, Postmaster. Office Hours from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Money Orders and Savings Bank Business transacted during open hours. Letters within the Dominion and to the United States and Mexico.

ARRIVES: 12.30 p.m. Closes: 4.55 p.m. Mails for Deer Island, Indian Island, and Campobello—Daily Arrives: 11 a.m. Closes: 12.30 p.m.

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