

Books are multiplying, the intelligence of the people owing to constantly increased facilities to stimulate it, is on the march. The young people are acquiring a taste for reading, and much of their leisure will be so occupied. But chaff and wheat nestle side by side in the same heap. Other than useful books are constantly issuing from the mammoth publishing houses of the present day. These earnestly invite the attention and waste the time, if they do not by their weight tax the powers of the *reading public*. No uncertain note should be sounded by the teachers and preachers of this Association in the ears of our young people, on this question. Our lives are too short, and too much earnest work devolves upon us to kill time, enfeeble intellect, and dwarf our spiritual powers by giving attention to the trashy serials and disgusting novels that are deluging every part of our land.

The religious newspaper, as an educator and promoter of spiritual growth, demands more than a passing remark, though the length to which our letter has already grown reminds us that we can give it nothing more. Were it possible or proper to draw a comparison between those families who avail themselves of its advantages and those who do not, no further argument would be needed in its favour. It is a small family library in itself. It courts attention and awakens interest by its freshness and variety. Its discussions touch every religious question without, and every religious sensibility within. It tells of the labours and triumphs of God's servants in all lands, and puts us into universal sympathy with the sacramental host of God's elect. It maps out with faithful hand all departments of christian work, and renders invaluable aid to all classes of christian workers. No family in our Baptist brotherhood can afford to be without our *weekly religious newspaper*.

The exercise of Christian benevolence, is another condition of spiritual growth, which it would be almost unpardonable in us to overlook. The principle underlying such exercise, *love to God and man*, is the root from which springs green and glorious, the tree of practical Christianity, with its sheltering branches, its nourishing fruit, and its "leaves for the healing of the nations." Where this principle is covered by worldliness, or smothered by covetousness, there can be no growth in the individual, none in the church, and consequently none in the Denomination.

If we are christians we have the principle, but if we are to retain anything more than the name, we must live in its perpetual exercise. Those who complain of the repeated calls made upon them for benevolent contributions, complain of one of the means which God has designed to promote their spiritual growth. Whatever will assist in killing selfishness, and lead us to live for him who died for us, will develop our spiritual powers.

The habitual exercise of christian benevolence will do this. Taking for granted that the religious teachers of this body will make this principle prominent in their teachings, will show the wide and ever widening field for it to operate upon, and the best method of