

One of the speakers directed his remarks to the youthful band, on the importance of searching the Scriptures and committing them to memory, and then endeavoured to show the happy results by so doing. He also took occasion to compare our position as a nation—enjoying the Christian privileges as we do—to France and Italy, nations where the word of God was in a great measure a sealed book. These and other remarks from our respected Br. Barber had a good effect. All appeared to be well pleased with the entertainment.

We held our repast under the shady grove; about 245 were present on the occasion; and I wish you could have been with us to hear the delightful chorus of our youthful band, of whom we have from 60 to 90 in attendance from Sabbath to Sabbath. I would here state, for the example of youth in other parts of the Province, that the youth of both sexes, from 16 years to 24, are not ashamed to be seen reading the Bible in our S. S., or teaching the smaller ones to read.

W. ROADHOUSE, JUN'R,  
*Superintendent.*

MOUNT PLEASANT,  
ALBION, 25th Oct. 1852.

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### NOVEL-READING.

It is generally conceded that some of the finest fruits of the finest minds are found in this field of literature, encumbered, it is true, with ponderous heaps of the most vile trash. One in a thousand of these volumes may, perhaps, be read with some profit, and no serious injury, while four hundred and ninety-nine of the residue are so frivolous, as to render their perusal a criminal waste of time. The other five hundred will be found positively injurious in various ways.

Habitual novel-reading is detrimental to the health and vigour of the

body. Nature will not be robbed with impunity of a requisite amount of food, air, rest, and sleep. Reprisals are always made where the hours of night are devoted to this exercise.

The nervous system, moreover, being intimately connected with the brain, becomes the predominating system during the period of youth, because this predominance is necessary to the proper development and increase of the body. Now that strong excitement of the feelings, occasioned by works of fiction, has a tendency to produce such a predominance of the nervous system as permanently to generate the most afflictive nervous diseases.

An eager perusal of light literature destroys all taste for solid reading. Control over the thoughts is lost, while the bewitching scenes of romance are floating through the mind. Historical, scientific, and especially religious works, become insipid and dull. The habit of receiving pleasure, without any exertion of thought, by the mere excitement of curiosity and sensibility, may be justly ranked among the worst effects of habitual novel-reading. It cannot but be injurious to the human mind never to be called into action. Under circumstances of perpetual inaction, it wilts and withers like the muscles of an arm which is always unused.

Novel-reading tends to inflame the passions, pollute the imagination, and corrupt the heart. Moral sense is weakened by the false sentiment which they inculcate.

Novel-reading is objectionable, because it creates an unnatural and morbid taste. It frequently becomes an inveterate habit, strong and fatal as that of the drunkard. In this state of intoxication, great waywardness of conduct is almost sure to follow. Even where the habit is renounced,