

Work for the Winter Months.

Teachers, have you marked out for yourselves a course of study and reading for the winter? Are the parents and young people of the community to be sharers in your reading course? At least you will devote one evening a week to them. Do not wait to be invited to do this. Such an invitation may never come. If conditions in the community permit it, have a reading club organized, the members meeting once a week at different houses. If this is not practicable, gather a few into your boarding house of an evening and read with them. The number will grow and the interest deepen. There should be no difficulty in awakening, if it does not already exist, a taste for good reading in any community, provided you are in earnest. You will be a benefactor if you can arouse a genuine liking for literature among the young, and give the elders something beside the newspaper and small talk to occupy the long winter evening. This may be undertaken as a duty at first, but it will soon become a pleasure, and benefit yourself and others. "He (or she) who is worth nothing to the community outside of the schoolhouse is but half a teacher."

What to read? That is a question that requires some thought. If you wish to do work that will last, have little or nothing to do with the books of the hour—that is, lately published ones. Choose those that have stood more or less the test of time. Among poets,—Shakespeare, Milton, Woodsworth; Browning, Tennyson, Longfellow. Among prose writers,—Addison, Thackeray, Dickens, Bulwer-Lytton. There are, of course, many others worth reading. But do you realize it?—the rising generation is growing up almost in ignorance of these authors, except for the smattering of them found in their school readers, which, unfortunately, appears to make but little impression, or desire to read further. The newer books are advertised and talked about so much that the majority of readers may forget that there are any books of bygone days worth reading. Teachers may do much good by rousing fresh interest in these treasures of the past—books that may be read again and again with delight and profit. The youth who had read Scott's "Quentin Durward" three times, and was with delight reading it again, is an instance of the worth of a good book. Read Scott's "Antiquary," "Old Mortality," "Kenilworth," or Dickens' "David Copperfield," "Tale of Two Cities," or Thackeray's "Henry Esmond," "The Newcombes," and then

read a modern story, with the ink scarcely dry on its pages. You will return to the old writers with renewed delight.

There are many excellent newspapers and magazines to occupy some of the leisure time. They are for the passing moment, and should not interfere with the study of the great authors marked out on the plan for the winter evenings. When this plan has been fully matured, and the larger scholars and their elders in the community have become interested in it, nothing should be allowed to interfere with the weekly meetings. Punctuality and business-like habits should regulate the proceedings. A course of readings, carried out with vim and thoroughness, may influence for good many communities and contribute much to their happiness and culture. An earnest and hopeful leader will work wonders even among people who may at first be careless and irresponsible.

The *St. John Daily Telegraph* recently alluded to the delay and confusion caused by the duplication of names of post offices. This is really becoming a nuisance that should be dealt with by the Geographical Bureau or postal authorities, or both. In endeavoring to trace the whereabouts of "Pleasant Creek" a few days ago, the attempt was unsuccessful. The name was not on the Postal Guide; but note what the Guide, already a year old, did offer as a tribute to the popularity of "Pleasant" for the Maritime Provinces alone: "Pleasant Valley" occurs as the name of three post offices in Nova Scotia; "Pleasant Vale," once in New Brunswick; "Pleasant Point," once in Nova Scotia and once in New Brunswick; "Pleasant Lake," once in New Brunswick; and "Lake Pleasant," once in Nova Scotia; "Pleasant Mount" occurs once in Nova Scotia, while "Mt. Pleasant" occurs three times—once, each, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island. Then we have "Pleasant Bay," "Pleasant Grove," "Pleasant Harbour," "Pleasant Hills," "Pleasant Home," "Pleasant Ridge," "Pleasantville," as names of post offices, without mentioning the use, occurring in the case of many of the above, as names of lesser localities.

A GRATIFYING feature of our educational progress is the increased number of new school buildings that one sees in travelling through the cities, towns and many of the country districts. But there is a more important feature than fine school buildings. The quality of the teaching done in the schools is the true test of our educational progress. Better pay will assure greater permanence and a better quality of teaching. The indications are that people are waking up to this fact.