

# JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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## THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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### CONDITIONS.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE NOVEL.

Charlotte and Eliza Clinton, were the daugh-  
ters of a merchant in Yorkshire, who, with his  
able lady, had paid particular attention to the  
education of their children, having made it their  
policy to have them instructed in what was use-  
ful, rather than in what was merely ornamental;  
and it must be acknowledged, that the talents  
and progress of the daughters was very satis-  
factory to their parents.

One morning in June, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton  
having left the parlor after breakfast, Eliza took  
up a book, which she had previously placed un-  
der one of the window-cushions, and began to  
read with great eagerness.

"My dear Eliza," said her sister, "what  
book are you reading?"

Eliza. What work? why really, Sister, I am  
most ashamed to say. Will you promise not  
to tell my Papa?"

Char. Promise! I do not like to make a pro-  
mise until I know to what I bind myself, and—

Eliza. Well, Charlotte, I have never found  
out other than a kind Sister, and therefore I  
will tell you, without exacting any promise. It  
is Miss Ward's last Novel (*blushing*)

Char. Novel! surely, my dear, you do not ac-  
custom yourself to read novels?

Eliza. Not Commonly—but this has been re-  
commended to me, so strongly, that I could not  
resist the temptation to read it. It is certainly  
very interesting and entertaining.

Char. Entertaining!—but is it instructive?  
for, as dear Papa often says, "Never read any  
thing, my dear girls, that will not benefit as well  
as amuse you;" and our minister's advice, in his  
last sermon to young people, was very similar,  
—"Be as chaste in your reading as in your diet,  
and always consult what will profit you." "Read-  
ing improves the mind." You remember this  
motto I have no doubt.

Eliza. Yes, my dear, very well; but there is  
certainly something in novels that is very fasci-  
nating.

Char. I suppose there is, if we are to judge  
by the conduct of many persons. Old Mrs. Ter-

ram, it is said, desired her servant to read novels  
to her during her last illness, and Miss Flight,  
who is not remarkable for the correctness of her  
taste, or the depth of her understanding, is, I  
am informed, the best customer at the circulating  
library. I have also heard it lamented by our  
dear friend Eugenia, that her mother, who is  
sixty-nine, spends a great part of the Lord's day  
in reading novels!

Eliza. Oh, shocking indeed! Well, Sister, I  
have nothing to say in defence of them, I must  
own I have often been grieved in thinking how  
much money our servants spend in this way

Char. On servants, as well as on others, they  
have a most pernicious effect, and I really think,  
that from these productions, they have imbibed  
the most whimsical and slighty ideas respecting  
their dress and future condition. Indeed, the  
plot of every novel is very similar, and contains  
little more than the rise, progress, and consum-  
mation or failure, of some whimsical or extrava-  
gant attachment.

Eliza. Well, my dear Charlotte, you are really  
a decided advocate against the conduct I am  
pursuing, and I believe I may venture to say,  
that I shall not easily be induced to begin an-  
other novel.

Char. Then my point is happily gained!—One  
observation more I cannot withhold. You and  
I, my dear, are generally supposed to favor reli-  
gion. Now, would it not be a painful thing if it  
were to be whispered by the kind friend who  
lent you the novel, that Mr. Clinton's family pre-  
tended to be very religious, but that she could  
assert, from personal knowledge, that the daugh-  
ters had no objection to read novels *secretly*, and  
would no doubt attend the theatres if they could  
do it *secretly*.

Eliza. True, very true, (*rising up*)  
Char. And, "if we know these things, happy  
are we if we do them."

Eliza. I will send home the novel *directly*  
And as I have long wished to enter upon a course  
of reading, will you, sister, give me an outline  
of what you consider most useful and profitable

Char. Most cheerfully—my dear father's li-  
brary contains an excellent selection from the  
best authors, and I will take an early opportu-  
nity to procure his thoughts upon the subject.

Charlotte Clinton took the earliest opportunity  
of requesting her father's opinion on the books  
which he judged most suitable to his daughters.  
Ever happy in the idea of promoting their real  
interests, and eager to contribute to their im-  
provement, he cheerfully complied with their  
wish, and shortly after presented them with the  
following note:

My dear Girls,

It affords me real pleasure to discover in  
you a desire to improve your minds by adding  
to your stock of information. I would have an-  
swered your request verbally, but I considered  
that by this mode you would have an opportunity  
of reviewing my remarks upon the subject.  
Young persons of your age are liable to many  
temptations to waste time. Fashion and amuse-

ments are pursued by many with avidity.—You  
have been happily preserved from the follies of  
the card table, the profligacy of the theatre, and  
the dissipations of the ball room, but the mind  
must be cultivated; for what is the most lovely  
form, or the most agreeable disposition, if the  
mind be unadorned?

But to your question—You asked what books  
I would commend to your attentive perusal?  
My answer will be derived from a recollection  
of those works which I have found beneficial.

As an introduction, I wish you to read with  
care *The Improvement of the Mind*, by the late  
Dr. Isaac Watts, a book which abounds with  
many useful and important observations.

History and Geography are delightful sources  
of instruction and amusement. The ancient  
History of Rollin, (a most valuable work) con-  
tains so much useful matter, interspersed with  
religious reflections, and explanations of different  
parts of the Holy Scriptures, that, although it is  
long, the perusal of it will amply repay you.  
After this you may proceed to Goldsmith's His-  
tories of Greece and Rome; and if you wish to  
trace the progress of the blessed gospel, you  
will find it in Milner's, Brown's, or Josheim's  
Ecclesiastical History. I have been much gra-  
tified in perusing the History of the Turks.

The writings of Dr. Robertson must not be  
neglected. As an historian he is deservedly  
esteemed. His Histories of Scotland, America,  
and of the Emperor Charles V. are well entitled  
to your attention. To which may be added,  
Watson's Lives of Philip II. and III. of Spain,  
and the Duke of Sully's Memoirs of Henry IV.  
of France.

Bishop Burnett's Histories of the Reformation  
and of his Own Times, will be read with pleasure  
as you advance in this kind of knowledge.

If I have omitted the History of England, it  
is from the supposition that you are already well  
acquainted with it. To this you will often refer,  
and endeavour to impress the leading facts which  
it records upon your memories.

Geography may be studied advantageously by  
means of voyages and travels, always taking  
care to have a map near you, and to find out the  
places mentioned by the author.

Poetry is so pleasing that you will not require  
me to recommend it to your notice. It elevates  
the ideas and sustens the style. Many useful  
maxims are retained in the memory by the aid  
of versification; yet you must use caution. I op-  
must not be always trusted; his numbers are  
smooth, but his sentiments are often incorrect.  
Cowper, Aronside, Thompson, and Young, will  
improve as well as please; and, as to Watts, his  
Lyric compositions have been the delight of  
many serious minds, and raised their affections  
towards heavenly things.

Religion must not be neglected. To live well,  
must be the study of your life. "Seek first the  
kingdom of God and his righteousness." The  
writers on this momentous theme are numerous  
and excellent. Doddridge's *Rise and Progress*  
of Religion in the Soul, Aikin's *Alarm* to the