

over-estimated. A writer in the *Methodist Protestant* said : " A pastor found many of his parishioners who were too poor to take their church paper, but who took several secular papers and tales of fiction, that cost four or five times as much. Cause : they had little relish for religious reading. Effect : their relish for religious reading lessened every year. Mystery : they wondered why their spirituality was so dull, and that their children loathed everything of a religious character. Result : those children who married and left home ceased church attendance altogether."

A deeply pious clergyman told me that one of the greatest men of the age, and a seeker after truth, had told him that he would give all he was possessed of if he could disabuse his mind of the evils instilled into it by the early reading of skeptical works, but there is no room for skepticism, and no taste to read of it, if the mind, in its opening years, has been fed upon the Word of God. Shaftesbury, the great philanthropic earl of that name, was converted by his pious nurse at the age of seven years, and dying at the age of eighty-four years, after a life of usefulness, would fain have lived longer, there was still so