

turn from a visit to the city where at an auction he had purchased a bundle of new books. Among them were Sherwood's Stories, Robin's Journal, and two volumes entitled Scenes in Asia and Scenes in America. How through the long winter evenings I pored over these books! How the mind swelled with the new ideas it drank in! How I spelled away at the hard words, conquering in my zeal whole hosts of difficulties in the art of reading; and better than all, kindling a thirst for reading and knowledge that lured me on, till I had mastered a course at college!

I do not mean to deny the need of school instruction; but the training of the school-room will be robbed of half its difficulties, and multiplied greatly in its results, if children are provided with books which will interest and instruct them.

If you are too poor to buy books, set your children upon earning them for themselves. Give your boys some vacant corner of a field, where they can raise a few bushels of corn, or allow them wages for any extra labor they may perform. Their work will be lightened, and their souls enlarged by the efforts. So let the girls be permitted to earn a penny now and then, and when you go to town buy them good books. Better every way is such expenditure of the little sum your children will get than that of buying a sheep or a calf or any so-called prudent investment, which engages them thus early in the mad chase for riches which makes the world so hard and selfish. — *Mich. Jour. of Education.*

Prize-Fighting.

The mind recoils on bringing before its eye the brutality of the gladiatorial contests of old Rome; when at every gush of blood the arenas, erected for the purpose, resounded with the plaudits of a brutal and ignorant mob.

And we condemn in no measured terms, the bull-fighting and cock-fighting propensities of Spain and Portugal.

But what do we say now, when christian England, and christian America has engaged in a pre-concerted and pre-arranged human prize-fighting, an act illegal in both countries? We are told that it is "manly," we reply that it is beastly. God the moral governor of the universe, has erected this splendid edifice—the human body, to dwell in, and not to be prostituted to gambling and brutal purposes. The late prize-fight between Sayers and Hoenan, has certainly tended in the eyes of every well-wisher to society, to lower the character of these two countries.

Reading.

What branch of education is more neglected than reading? There is no literary treat so great as to listen to good reading of any kind. Not one in a hundred can read, so as to please the ear, and send the words home with gentle force to the heart and understanding. An indistinct utterance, whines, draws, nasal twangs, guttural notes, hesitations, want of proper spirit, emphasis and inflections and other vices are almost universal. Why it is so no one can say, unless it be a lack of instruction and training in our schools; a failure to give a correct impulse to the elocutionary powers of the pupil.—Many a lady can sing an Italian song with considerable execution, but cannot read English passably. Yet reading is by far the most valuable accomplishment. If an article is to be read in the drawing room, it is discovered that no one can read it properly.—One has weak lungs, another gets hoarse; another chokes, another has an abominable