

allow a family of young people to spend their long winter evenings in running from house to house, in useless conversation and frivolous and unprofitable amusements, while books are so cheap and easily obtained.

Books are not published merely to ornament our dwellings, but to be read and studied by all; and if we read them a second time, we will find them the same old friends with unchanged faces.

Every subject of human enquiry is now made so plain, that "he who runs may read, and he who reads may understand;" consequently it is a shame to have books in our houses, and otherwise so easily accessible, and not read them. It is impossible to take our place upon the platform of society, and fulfil its requirements, and remain ignorant.

Reading is the most important part of our education; no matter if we have sat at the feet of all the Gamaliels of the day, and do not extend our knowledge by reading, study, reflection, observation, and application, we will be but poor scholars in the end. We should procure good books and devote all our available time to their study; we should shun bad books as we should bad company; it is by becoming acquainted with the master minds of the past and the present, that the mind becomes enobled and enriched with the treasures of knowledge, and ultimately fitted for a more lofty state of existence.

In direct contrast with the act of the lady who forbid her son reading the book for fear of injuring its beau-

tiful exterior, stands a class of readers, who procure books merely for the purpose of glancing at their pages, and having it said that they have read so many books; and when read, or rather not read with the understanding, they are cast aside to mould, or given to the children to tear to pieces. Only the other day we saw a child tearing a copy of the New Testament to pieces, without a word of complaint by its parents, who witnessed the act; anything to keep the little ones quiet,—even the most valuable books.

People should remember, that to produce a useful work, of any magnitude, months, and may be years of hard thinking, is required in its production, besides the expenditure of a large amount of money in getting it into circulation; then to have it lie upon a parlor table as a mere ornament, unread, or if read, at the rate of fifty to eighty pages a day, and when so glanced at, committed to oblivion or destruction, is neither respecting the author nor his works of usefulness, nor adding to the usefulness of the possessor.

There are some who subscribe for books and papers as an act of kindness to their authors, or agents, and no from their need of information, or any benefit that they expect to derive from the perusal of the works; however, such people seldom read.

While canvassing for subscribers for the *Instructor*, we found those who subscribed because they had a taste for reading and a desire to see their families read and become intelligent and useful members of the commu-