

healthy guardianship and guidance of literature, if so be that "that inexorable force called public taste" is to be as pure and intelligent as it is inexorable. Those in charge of public libraries are here to be true to the trust assigned them and fill their alcoves with books that first of all have something in them, and then present it in wholesome and edifying form. In our copious English speech, good literature is plentiful enough to satisfy the largest demands. In the two great departments of biography and history, what a vast and attractive field is opened, and who could estimate the beneficent result if our American youth would devote to such an order of reading the larger portion of that time that is given to the rapid verse and the questionable romance of the day! In our best British and American miscellany, as also in our few standard novelists and poets, this spacious range of reading is indefinitely widened.

These are the books which, according to Bacon, "serve for delight and ability," and that, as such, are "to be chewed and digested."

They leave us the wiser and better for having read them; satisfy a clear head, a clear conscience and a clean taste, and thus fulfill in our experience the appreciative lines of Wordsworth:

"And books we know  
Are a substantial world both pure and good.  
Round these with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,  
Our pastime and our happiness do grow."

## II.—THE TRAINING FOR THE PULPIT.

### NO. II.

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"And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche."—*Chaucer*.

"Learning by study must be won;

'Twas ne'er entailed from sire to son."—*Gay*.

"Were men to live coeval with the sun,

The patriarch pupil would be learning still."—*Young*.

"Give attendance to reading."—*Paul*.

IN a previous article we treated of the kind of *men* whom it is exceedingly desirable, if not indispensable, to secure for the work of the pulpit—men rich in gifts and in the best qualities both of mind and heart; men characterized not only by faith fervent and unfeigned, zeal ardent and glowing, enthusiasm dauntless and unquenchable, but also possessed of a healthy, robust, vigorous physical constitution, an active, energetic mental temperament, a self-denying disposition, high moral courage, good common sense, some knowledge of human nature, and intense, unselfish devotion to the work.

We now proceed, with due diffidence, to refer to the preparatory training requisite for the *work* of the pulpit.