

Burke says : " The cause of wrong taste is defective judgment." We agree with him, and maintain that the taste for sensational literature would not have grown to such dimensions without the exercise of very bad judgment on the part of readers.

Where lies the remedy for this deplorable evil, the antidote for this poison? Necessarily in the institutions of learning where the foundation of the taste for good or bad literature is laid. There is no one but will agree that the novels and sensational newspaper which we have been condemning are immoral. A moral person cannot persist in reading them. Now morality and religion cannot be separated since the former takes its rise and authority from the latter. It therefore follows that the inculcation of good morals, and consequently religious teaching is necessary to combat this bad literature.

What is the tendency of our schools to-day if it be not to drive religion from their doors, and consequently to deprive the world of the only weapon wherewith to successfully fight the evil spread broadcast by a venal press? The result of this tendency to drive God out of the schools can only be to lower the taste of the people, degrade them step by step till a time will come, which is indeed actually upon us, when the masterpieces of Shakespeare will be read as are the *Antigone* and the *Acropolis Rex*, only in the Universities; when Milton will no longer find among the people a reader whose heart will beat to the cadence of his majestic verse; when Zola will be preferred to à Kempis; when the Bible itself will be looked upon as a curiosity by the great mass of readers.

Having treated of those whose sole reading is the novel, we may now notice the difference in the advantages derived by those who read for the story alone, and those who read for information as well as amusement. The former, those who read for the story alone, will naturally choose such books as contain stirring narratives, while the latter will take to books of a more practical character, such, for instance, as those having a historical, a scientific, a philosophical, or a religious value.

There is perhaps no more pleasant way of studying history than through the pages of a good novel. Where can we get a better idea of the border wars than in Scott? Waverley is a history written in the great novelist's perfect style. Fenimore Cooper's works are histories. It is no matter for wonder that the new literature introduced by Scott became so popular. Jules Verne is the chief writer of scientific novels, and the ingenuity he displays is simply marvellous. Of course he relates impossible things, but much fact can be gathered from him; and he leads us to anticipate the great scientific discoveries that may be made in the near future. Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" is an example of the philosophical novel: it has its basis in psychology. Cardinal Newman's *Callista*, and Cardinal Wiseman's *Fabiola*, are examples of the religious novel, and what charming and elevating tales they are.

Perhaps as great a pleasure, and certainly as great a benefit to the reader, comes from the study of the language and style of an author. Almost every sentence contains in it the elements of satisfaction. With what pleasure do we not read and re-read the majestic sentences of