

Let those who read but little show us an example of how we should read.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have done; and I leave this great subject with much regret and almost with shame. For I feel that I have spoken but lukewarmly and half-heartedly of these beloved friends, these most precious possessions, the records of the thoughts and emotions, the speculations and efforts of the mighty dead, which I think I can say I have loved with a devotion unflagging and unchanging, amid "all the charges and chances of this mortal life," for more years than most of those present have lived. You cannot speak of those whom you love best as you feel. And the effort only deepens your sense of failure.

But you cherish them in your hearts. So it is with books. When launching forth on the boundless ocean of eternity, we cast a backward glance on the receding shores of time, assuredly we shall place among the many blessings and mercies bestowed upon us by Almighty God the teaching, the strength, the consolation, the joy which we have gained from the friendship of books.

[It will be apparent that this lecture was prepared for hearers, rather than readers. It might have been easy to re-write it; but it has been thought better to leave it in its first rough state, in which perhaps it may be more useful than if it had received a higher polish.]

### A JOURNEY.—III.

BY A TORONTO MERCHANT.

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

THE general character of Southern California is mountainous, and taken as a whole, from an agricultural point of view, would be considered very poor as compared with Ontario. A large part of its surface consists of mountains and desert; and yet there is much of the very best land to be found in the valleys, also on the slopes or foot-hills, and mesa or table lands. The foot-hills are usually cut through with ravines, caused by a rush of water from the higher hills and mountains during the prolonged and heavy rains which occur now and then. At such times the old dried up water courses are filled with rushing torrents, which come tumbling over a succession of falls and rapids from the mountains, gathering strength continually in their downward course to the ocean. The mountains are generally unfit for cultivation; but on

their sides, or in the canyons, here and there, may be found spots of the richest soil, which by irrigation may be made most productive. A Canadian will miss the beautiful forest trees, such as beech, birch, maple, elm, basswood, and many others with which he is familiar at home, and which add so much to the beauty of the landscape. The live oaks are, however, plentiful in many places, and with their great twisted and wide-spreading branches, and dark glossy evergreen foliage, are decidedly ornamental—a characteristic southern California landscape would scarcely be complete without one or more of these trees. The mountains are nearly always covered with a variety of evergreen shrubs, growing up in the midst of stones and boulders of all sizes. A visitor from the Atlantic side of the continent will naturally wonder why there are no large rivers and lakes, such as he has been accustomed to see in the East