

able service to the readers of the RECORD, by calling their attention to the general subject of reading.

First, then take heed what you read, be careful to select and read those books from which you may acquire useful information, improvement of the mind in knowledge; and the heart in goodness; these are the great objects which ought ever to be kept in view in reading.

It is a consideration of no small weight, that reading provides matter for useful conversation. Those who are ignorant of books must be very narrow minded, hence when a few of such people meet together, instead of improving the time with interesting conversation, they very often circulate false reports or more likely still, relate to one another some foolish story or tale of scandal. Speaking of scandal I am reminded of a very good definition of the word given by a little school girl to a school inspector. The inspector on his way to visit a certain school, heard a very odd story about the teacher, which had been circulated by some mischief loving boys; but he being a very sensible man did not for a moment pay the slightest attention to what he had heard, until he visited and examined the school.

Finding all as it should be, he spoke to the teacher about the tale of scandal he lately heard, and receiving an explanation which satisfied him as to the origin of the story, he addressed the pupils on the evils arising from telling tales (and especially untrue ones) out of school.

When about concluding his address he asked how many present could give the meaning of the word scandal. Many hands were raised but one little girl appearing more eager than the others, was asked what meaning she would give. She replied in these words, nobody says nothing, and somebody goes and tells everybody about it.

And dear reader that definition is always be given of the conversation those persons, whose chief delight is pry into the private history of individuals, and spread abroad all the scandal that is afloat.

Give these same persons an acquaintance with books, and how quickly would be changed. Their former common conversation would appear ridiculous. They would now have something of importance to communicate because they knew something of importance.

A taste for good reading is a sure preservative from sin.

Next to the love of God implanted in the heart, nothing affords a better barrier against vice than the love of good books.

It is with them as with prayers, use of them will make us leave off sinning or leave off reading them.

A Reader of the
RECORD

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY.—As King Humbert entering Naples in state on Sunday, a poorly clad man attempted to assassinate him with a poignard. Signor Ciccio, chief of the Ministry, who was in carriage with the King, laid hands on the man, who wounded him in the thigh. The King drew his sword and struck the assassin, who was immediately secured. The King received a slight scratch.

THE EAST.—Matters are still uneasy. Russia holds on to the Bulgarian territories, and is likely to do so until expelled to depart. Greece is crying for territory. Austria is in internal and external trouble. Turkey herself is less for lack of money. Changes in the Russian Cabinet are expected the significance of which it is impossible to tell.