Intertwined

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Letter.

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I. Necessity of Literature:-

For a better knowledge of the world.
As a help in understanding how to use our knowledge.

II. Power of Literature:-

Produces better thinkers.
Cultivates the taste for reading.

III. Advantages derived:-

Is a means of obtaining pleasure
Furnishes information.

IV. Special directions given to Literature:-

Solid includes:

History,
Science,
Biography,
General information.

Lighter includes:-

Novels,
Story papers
Cheap Literature,
Literature for
children.

V. Conclusion:-

Home: What pleasant thoughts are connected with this simple little word. It constitutes the circle within which we turn for comfort and solace after our daily labors or weary wanderings. It is the place we will in late years enjoy looking back upon as the pride of our childhood days. It calls to our minds the fond memories of old associates and will always be the dearest spot on earth "Be it ever so humble".

A few years ago Jennie Lind, the renowned songstress, who was singing before a audience in New York did not touch the very hearts of the people until she began to pour forth "Home Sweet Home". The audience gave way to their feelings at once and thousands were seen with tears gushing from their eyes.

Some one has said, "Next to religion, the dupest and most ineradicable sentiment in the human soul is that of the home affections." There can not be any real happiness in life or no misery without the home and this Home is what we make it. If the parents are kind and always ready to give their good advice, brothers and sisters always ready to share each others joys and sorrows, then the home will be a place of peace and happiness.

It surely will be a blessing to the parents if this child is started on the right road to win for himself friends, success, or, best of all, eternal life. He will be the pride of his parents and a joy to his friends.

It is a sad thing to think of so many young people who have had no influence in the right direction: they have been left to the world while young, to enjoy themselves regardless of the life to come or the duties of this earth. In order to make the home a blessing the parents must take the matter into their hands: they must set a good example by being industrious and conscientious in all the affairs of life.

Then again the home must be made attractive and this may be done by making the rooms neat and cozy: by giving the boys toys and games, materials for painting as was Benjamine West, or the hatchet as was George Washington. But, while these may be good and may lead them to more thorough perfection and higher attainments of life, yet, besides these there is needed something to keep children off the streets of evenings during their leisure moments, and that is by providing them with such reading material and encourage them to employ this time in any way that will keep them from idleness and make them more energetic.

Every young person has a leisure hour each day which might be spent in whatever way he may choose and if properly improved can be made as beneficial through the mental training he receives as is any of our daily labors. By reading such books as will develop the brain and sharpen the intellect he will know more of the world around him and be able to appreciate the comforts of life.

Hence we see the great necessity of literature is to broaden our views of the world and is a help and comfort all through life. This may be illustrated by the fact that, those who live in an out of the way place and have not the means to travel, would be almost entirely ignorant of the world if it were not for the circulation of literature which at the present time can be had in any home. Were it not for literature our curiosity would be as greatly excited at seeing a book as was our President the first time he rode on a train of cars.

By reading we are enabled to become better acquainted with the manners and customs of the people and become more thorough in our chosen occupation. Mr Milton says, "To him who has been long shut up in cities, no rural object can be presented which will not delight or refresh some of his senses." Yet some people will persist in saying, that the literature is only a distractive agent and takes too much time from their labors and family: but how many of these same people will spend their evenings on the street. Although we cannot all be a Hume or a Milton our efforts can be directed toward the advancement of our education and our help can be given to the advancement of literature by the earnest attention directed toward it.

We have seen that there is a necessity for literature now let inquire into its power or use which will help to prove the necessity of literature.

By the power of literature we do not intend to impress

upon any mind that the books merely of principles and sentiment of the human heart are the essential qualities of human life, but rather the kind that gives character, expression, and connects the body and soul with eternal life. Romance belongs to the early age and novels to the more advanced periods of history.

In the first place the power of literature is to produce better thinkers. Charles Lamb says, "When I am walking I am thinking, Books think for me, I can read anything I call a book." He also thinks we cannot get along without Dictionaries, Pocket books, works of Gibbon, Hume etc.

We as Americans are a thinking people and this talent has been brought about largely by our extensive reading and studying. No one can read a book without thinking what he would like to do, would have done, how the author could write such an intiresting and instructive work and express his opinion of the book.

By this thinking power we are enabled to get at the core of the subject and understand it more fully: this is proven in the study of mathematics which requires all brain work and nothing can be accomplished unless the principle is well understood and then the work is nearly complete.

Literary power also cultivates taste whether it is natural or acquired. Mr Addison defines taste as being, "that faculty of the soul which discerns the beauties of an author

with pleasure and imperfections with dislike." The word is usually thought of as refering to matters of dress or household duties, but it can also be spoken of in the literary sense.

In literature as in dress the tastes differ, some having a special liking for the lighter literature while others prefer the more solid. It might be well to define the natural and acquired taste and note this difference. The natural taste is original with us and may be called one of our talents: while the required is that which has to be continually practiced and added to before it can compare with the natural.

The person who has a natural taste for art can accomplish the end much more quickly than the one who undertakes to make himself proficient in that line when perhaps he would make a better farmer. This may be illustrated by the story of a man who was anxious to go into the ministry and had a dream in which he saw the letters G. P. very distinctly and supposed of course that he was called to Go Preach but his labors were all in vain and on speaking of his unsuccessful labors and his dream was told he misunderstood the letters G. P. for they meant Go Plow.

So it is in many cases that the taste must be acquired. If the taste is toward anything fair and beautiful the result will be beautiful. The writings of our earliest

writers, as Chaucer, Spenser and Shakespeare were written from their own tastes and talents, but since their time literature has been mostly acquired by reading the works of some author and writing a story in nearly the same style.

Knowing that there is a great necessity for literature we will turn our attention to the study of the advantages for Pleasure and Information.

First let us consider the information we derive from our reading as this is of greater importance. The fact of reading to know all about the occupations we follow is quite evident for time, money, labor and sometimes lives can be saved by fully understanding the undertakings in life. The Physician who has not read and become well acquainted with his occupation may kill more persons than he saves: so it is from the humblest occupation to the highest in life unless one is well versed in his occupation no definite good can be attained.

In our reading we always receive some information which is an aid in the advancement of education. How much happier the people would be at the present time if in the earlier days more attention had been given to a sound education.

There is unbounded pleasure in the line of Literature. Pleasure can be obtained in times of sorrow or contentment, sickness or health.

It is said "science cannot be called literature but a great deal of pleasure can be derived from science." Scientists spend hours in reading some book of science which pertains to their chosen labor, but very few people can read the works with real pleasure.

Literature has charms for old and young, great and small. A good book, in order to get enjoyment from it should be read daily, just as much as the plant which needs attention every day. The mood in which we find ourselves depends greatly on the book we choose to read. If we are sad we need something to cheer us and if happy a more solid book may be read with pleasure.

Some people take Paradise Lost for an after dinner reading. But who can sit down and read Miss Alcotts "Rose in Bloom," "Little Women" or George Elliots "Mill on the Floss" without deriving some pleasure from so doing and also have a warm feeling toward the writer. Good readers are nearly as rare as good writers and without good readers no one can find the real pleasure that should be obtained from the use of books.

Lastly attention must be given to the solid and light literature. These are to be distinguished by their inward appearance.

Solid literature includes all books used for general information such as Histories, Essays and Biography. Emerson says, "History is the working of the mind

and ite genius is exercised by the entire series of days". Without the history of nations we who are living at the present time would know nothing of Grece, Rome, or any of the nations nor would the students be compelled to study them.

Some of the most noted Historians were Hume, Gibbon, Bancroft, Barnes and numerous others. A few of the later Historians are those of the writers on the Columbian Exposition which give an account of the proceedings of the Fair and a discription of the buildings of Chicago, all of which are beautifully illustrated.

The lighter literature is mostly for pleasure and pastime. It is an excellent literature and comes to us to chew "the worlds heart." The idea a great many folk have of lighter literature as being an evil agent is false, some of our best writers were novelists, but it is true that Trashy novels are published which should not be allowed to enter the home.

The literature for children is quite as essential as are the playthings which every child have for their amusement. Some one has beautifully said "Literature is the atmosphere of the mind, in it we live, move and have our being intellectually." There is nothing children enjoy so much as Fairy stories and stories of adventure. which may be given very nicely in connection with a lesson in Geography, Biography and Biographies of our

great discovere and Statesmanship may be given in this study of history. How much more intireting and instructive will the reading of the "Villiage Blacksmith" be to a child who has learned that the foot looke back several generations to find one of his ancestors in the "Village Smithy" working beneath the spreading chestnut tree."

Cirtainly children as a class read more than adults and more thoroughly absorb what they do read, for their minds are free from care and quick of aprehension. Bookes which interest children are always enjoyed by older persons as well.

In conclucion let me say I think the proper kind of literature for the home is the sure and sound for in this line of reading matirial the evil that comes from the trashy literature is avoided. Whatever we read or fail to read there is one book that should be our daily companion. It is the Bible. All other literature is read and laid aside for an occasional referance but this is a book we will carry with us all through life. It is the only book Stanley carried with him through the Dark Continent and it has been compared to a lamp that shines, a sword that cutes, and a star that guides.

a good and pure literature both in and out of the home is one of the highest developments of the ages we among its many advantages it will tend toward saving young people from idleness and vice, - saving them to true manliness and womanliness and lifting them into realms of beauty and truth.