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BOOKS

How few people there are who realize the value of books! Almost any thought that has ever occurred to man can be found on the printed page. Not only do books deal with our own times, but with the dead centuries that have passed into eternity. Books reveal to us a record of the thoughts of mankind of various ages, from the date of the writing of the Koran to the present.

A good book is a good friend. It should be read and re-read, and finally placed upon a shelf for future perusal and consultation. If it will not bear many readings it has no value and may as well, or better, be destroyed. It is a waste of time to read books of no value to us. It is far better for us to have a few books that we study than to have a vast number of trashy volumes which contain nothing of value. A lot of sensational volumes on how Mrs. So-and-so combs her poodle's hair will never add to a reader's culture. Don't think that it will! In the first place, any-one who is not above reading twaddle of that sort is mentally too low even to acquire real culture. We know of no better way by which to judge of the mentality and culture of a person than by the books that person may read.

In past centuries the writing of books was not a whim, nor was the object solely for the purpose of entertaining a horde of sickly minds, but rather because the author felt that he had a message to leave to mankind. In the great number of books bequeathed us by writers of former generations few there are, indeed, that deal with society, but nearly all are cultural in the truest sense. That it is possible to mar-