

## The Chemawa American

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### YOUR READING MATTER.

Your thinking is governed largely by what you read. Your environment will also exert an influence over your mind. Those whom you meet socially will leave an impression on you for "better or for worse." By having care regarding the books you read and the character of those whom you choose for your friends and making your environment as congenial as possible, you should be able to advance yourself toward a plane, socially and intellectually, which will contribute to your success and happiness throughout life.

One of the greatest influences upon character is that of literature. The reading of sensational and pernicious literature becomes in time a habit with a person. One acquires a taste for the sensational, and the sensational in cheap fiction is usually of a very low order. The mind becomes "tuned" to this or that standard of literature and reasons and draws deductions accordingly. It requires a coarse mind to enjoy a coarse book.

Many are the crimes committed as the result of reading low, cheap and brutal

detective stories and romances. One has but to watch our daily papers' columns for proof of this assertion. Bad companionship leads to cigarettes, the cup, and bad literature. This is a combination which in time will certainly get the better of you and you will go to the "dogs" generally if you do not become an "out and out" criminal. The start toward such an end is more likely to be found in the books you read than any other one thing.

Think a moment! Bad books cannot possibly do you any good—that is an unheard-of proposition. On the other hand, the reading of good books, those given the public by the minds of moral and cultured men and women, will furnish you motives for righteous thinking and living and conduce to your happiness in many ways. It is well to consider these matters.

Christmas is soon to be here and some of the little children can "almost" hear the tinkling of the bells on old Santa's reindeers. Great, indeed, are the joys of youthful anticipation! If the youngsters could only realize it they would discover that it is possible to be happy every day. It takes not Christmas to make the earth beautiful, the air fresh and balmy, or the sun shine, all things which we enjoy and for which we should be thankful.

We are publishing in another column of this issue a document of a legal character which will probably be of interest to those who are attracted by bar proceedings. It is a good sign to see our boys taking an interest in matters pertaining to the laws of the land. Last year considerable attention was given to "court proceedings" by one of our leading literary societies.