

and after a longer time, perhaps, than was necessary to consider the proposition, he received the following reply from the rich man.

(To be continued.)

Proper Reading

MAY E. BEAN.

I have been glad to notice in the HERALD several articles in which reference was made to improper reading, for I think that it is a subject concerning which too little is said, both from pen and pulpit.

It is an old and true adage that "a person is known by the company that he keeps," and ordinarily there is no companion that more fully engraves and governs our thoughts than the book with which we engage our leisure hours. Consequently there are but few things that have more to do with the construction of our minds and characters, than the class of reading to which we give, not only the time spent in reading, but many minutes and perhaps hours when our hands are otherwise employed. And thus it should be, for it is through this means that we first obtain a knowledge of the way of salvation. It was to this means that Christ directed the Jews that they might learn of and believe on Him, when He said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me."

Let us therefore be very careful that we choose such books as will create purer and better thoughts, instead of those that will leave behind even a suggestion of evil.

If a question should arise in our minds as to whether a book is profitable, it seems to me that there is no better way of answering it than by asking ourselves whether we believe that it will impart more energy, strength and wisdom to do our work—the work that we believe to be most worthy of our manhood and womanhood, and, if we are Christ's, the work of Him to whom we have pledged our strongest efforts and best endeavors; or whether it will defile our ideas of purity; retard our convictions of duty, and undermine our determinations and weaken our efforts for truth and right. It is a sad thing to see a professed Christian neglecting the Book of books for light and frivolous reading, and yet it is no uncommon thing to see one of God's professed children thus forsaking the true bread of life for the husks and vanities of the

world.

And how many there are who have acquired a taste for the vile and ungodly reading in just this way, by neglecting and laying aside God's book to indulge their love of fancy and romance, first by reading storys from the pens of some of the best of fiction writers, and after a time those that are less pure of tone and moral, until the desire for romance and adventure like the appetite for strong drink in the tippler demands something more exciting, until even the most wicked and impure thoughts and acts, if clothed in pleasing words and embellished with elegant surroundings cease to shock or offend.

I believe that there are few if any, who love to fill their minds with the tragedy and drama that is flooding the world to-day, who can long love to think of Him who is all truth and righteousness. And those who publish it believe this also. Not long ago a paper of this class was left at our office, and in it the following notice was conspicuously displayed.

NOT REQUIRED!

The publishers of The *Family Story Paper* are at ease as to what your religious belief is. We are not asking for information.

NO SERMONS,

Appear in the columns of The *Family Story Paper*.

* * * * *
Every living being has a right to do as he or she pleases.

POSITIVELY no sermons," &c.

As I read my heart ached to think into how many homes this paper would be admitted, and to how many innocent youths it would become a teacher. For to those boys and girls—and not to boys and girls alone, but to men and women who peruse its columns, it will have as much to do with forming the ideas and character, as the teacher to whose care their education is committed. And the number of homes whose teachers of this kind are allowed a part in the education of young minds, would if numbered read a figure that would alarm thinking people who have even the moral interest of humanity at heart.

If you wish to know what class of reading creates the greatest demand, go into a news office and notice the books and periodicals there displayed; or into our public libraries and ask the librarians what books are read and reread, and

what ones are left in their places comparatively unnoticed.

And why is it so? Surely if every parent and teacher should take as much pains to learn the character and influence of the authors with whom their charges associate, as they would the companions with whom they sustain intimate relations at school or on the play-ground; provide such reading matter as will be helpful and elevating, and at the same time do what they can to prohibit and remove what might have an opposite effect; and by example and precept teach the necessity of a wise selection of reading, there would be less demand for the trashy and vile stuff that is now so freely circulated.

But as long as fathers and mothers themselves devote more time to unprofitable reading than they do to that which would be of some benefit to them, and carelessly allow their children to read whatever circumstances or their taste may dictate, this evil will grow worse, until, like strong drink it will become a foe so mighty that none can fail to recognize it.

Lowell, Mass.

Letter from Bro. Hubbard.

AMITY, OR., JAN. 1, 1883.

Elder J. F. Floyd:
DEAR BROTHER,—I hope and expect to be over to Monmouth this week. We closed our work here yesterday, per agreement, and expect to go, in a few months, to Portland to reside. We had a splendid audience here, as usual, last evening. The Amity Christian congregation is a good one, and deserves, and should have, a resident minister, as well as able preacher of the word. I have had a useful, but laborious year's labor here. But the work is done, and I have had too many precious spiritual feasts to believe that my labors here have not had the blessings of heaven. We need here, and the world needs less human creeds, but more of the bone, muscle, and sinew of an efficient Christianity; Christ which will lift struggling humanity to a higher plane of thought and life. May the doctrines of the Gospel of Christ be loved and obeyed by all, and may every one of the members of this congregation stand in their individual manhood and womanhood, clothed with the whole panoply of God, and in their united capacity be a giant of moral and Christian,

or spiritual strength.

A happy new year to you and yours and all the readers of the HERALD. We like the paper much; may it be a power for love, union and growth.

Fraternally,

S. M. HUBBARD.

P. S.—Letters sent here until further notice.—S. M. H.

Letter from Bro. White.

J. F. Floyd:

DEAR BROTHER,—I salute you with brotherly love, and best wishes, for your success. I like the last number of the HERALD so well, (No. 50,) that I send you fifty cents, for that much worth, of papers of that number if you have them, as there are two articles in it (A Reason for our Existence and The Law of Conscience), that I wish to circulate. If you have not the papers, and have any tracts, good for distribution, please send them, and oblige, yours in the one hope. Please send them to C. D. White, San Jose, Cal.

C. D. WHITE.

[We publish this private letter to show the interest the brethren are taking in the HERALD. Let others follow the good example of Bro. White.—ED]

Sad News.

EDEN VALLEY, W. T.

Dec. 25, 1882.

This morning's mail brings the sad news from our beloved evangelist, C. J. Wright, from Summer-ville, Or., dated Dec. 18th, stating that on the 14th, ult., his horse fell with him, breaking his left arm and shoulder blade, and dislocated the shoulder joint and tramping on his breast, thereby inflicting inward injuries. Bro. Wright had just closed a meeting at Grand Rounde, and was just starting for home; the stage not being able to proceed farther, owing to the washouts, was returning horseback, when the above mentioned accident occurred.

This will bring sorrow to many hearts, but we sincerely hope and pray that we may be favored with his speedy recovery and he being once more able to resume his ministerial labors. His family have our heart-felt sympathies, and our beloved brother may be assured that he is remembered in the prayers of his brethren in the Lord.

T. M. MORGAN.