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## Excellent Books for Boys to Read

(Continued from Page 1)

casting about in my memory, I find that it was a comprehensive and valuable one for cultivating a sound taste in literature.

Among these I recall the following which I heartily recommend to boys of that age and even older ones, if they are not already familiar with them:

"Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales," "Ivanhoe," "Guy Mannering," "Lady of the Lake," "Marmion," "Lay of the Last Minstrel," by Sir Walter Scott;" At the Back of the North Wind," by George Mac-Donald; "Greek Heroes," "The Boy in Grey," and "The Water Babies," by Charles Kingsley; "The Book of Golden Deeds," "Chaplet of Pearls," "The Caged Lion," by Charlotte M. Yonge; "Alice in Wonderland," "Alice Through the Looking Glass," by Lewis Carrol; "Parables from Nature," by Mrs. Gatty; "The Three Midshipmen' and "The Three Admirals," by W. H. Kingston: "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," and "Round the World in Eighty Days," by Jules Verne; "The Conscript, "Water loo," and "The Invasion of France," by Erckmann-Chatrian; "The Christmas Carol" by Dickens; "Little Women and Little Men," by Louisa May Alcott; "Undine" and "Sinstram and His Companions," by LaMotte Fouque In addition to these, I read a

number by myself for the love of reading had been thus stimulated. It is probable that some of the above I read over to myself with other books by the same authors. I remember being intensely interested in Longfellow's "Hiawatha."

After leaving this school, most of my reading was done by myself and, like the editor of The Observer, I became an omniverous reader, and at fourteen was reading any novel on which I could lay my hands. Between eleven and eighteen I had acquired a familiarity with the Waverley, Dickens' and Bulwer Lytton's novels, Harrison Ainsworth's and Dumas'. I will try to enumerate some of these according to their classification.

"The Boy Tars and Boy Hunters," by Mayne Reid; "Tom Brown's School Days," by Hughes; "Eric and St. Winifred's," by Farrar; "Mr. Midshipman Easy," "Jacob Faithful," "Japh. et in Search of a Father," and "The Phantom Ship," by Marryat; "The Tower of London," "Windsor Castle," "Jack Shepperd," "Guy Fawkes," and "The Lancashire Witches," by Harrison Ainsworth. These are of the same character as Dumas' "The Three Muskateers," and "Twenty Years After," being historical. I have derived great benefit from the popular historical novel, though its history has to be taken with caution, but it has the merit of making a historical past

vivid and lifelike.

Of Dickens' books, "The Pickwick Papers," "Little Dorrit," "Nicholas Nickleby," "Dombey and Son," "Oliver Twist," "Martin Chuzzlewit" and "The Christmas Carol' should by all means be read, if not any of the others. Of Scott, "Ivanhoe," "Guy Mannering," "The Pirate," "Kenilworth," and "The Talisman," besides his poems represent the minimum. Of Lytton "The Last Days of Pompeii," easily stands first, to which "Night and Morning" and "Pelham" may be added, and three books by Kingley, "Westward Ho," "Hypatia," and "Hereward the Wake," to those I have previously mentioned.

Thackery claims attention for "The Newcomes," "Pendennis," "Henry Esmond" and "The Virginians." His "Vanity Fair" which some regard as his strong est book, is more for adults than for boys. Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" is important, though perhaps boys would find his "Notre Dame," and "Toilers of the Sea," more interesting. William Black's "Strange Advent-ures of a Phaeton," "Ultima Thule" and "A Princess of Thule," with Blackmore's charming "Lorna Doone" and Charles Reade's "The Cloister and the Hearth," appealed strongly to boys of my generation, also Wilkie Collins' "The Woman in White," and "The Moonstone." Shakespeare plays, "Macbeth," "Hamlet," "The Tempest" and "The Merchant of Venice," ought to be read and studied, as also Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," though this last will not appeal to American as to English boys. "Daniel Deronda," by George Elliott is a strong book though not so well known as "Adam Bede" and "The Mill on the Floss."

I did not read many books by American authors until I came to this country. Besides Miss Olcott's and some of Longfellow's poems, I had only come across Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom Cabin" and "Dred." It is possible that I read also some of Fennimore Cooper's, but Washington Irving and Hawthorne I read first over here.

Since then a number of more recent writers have appeared, Stevenson, Conan Doyle, Kipling, etc. I do not mention them, for they were not part of my boyhood environment. The boys of the present should, however, not neglect them.

"Of making of books there is no end," and especially in recent years a flood of story books has been let loose. Perhaps I am old fashioned and partial, but none of the newer sorts appeal to me like the old ones, and on reading them I cannot help thinking that the old are better.

-U. H. G.