

## SYMPOSIUM ON GOOD LITERATURE.

Ray Ridenhower: There is nothing which tells so much of the education of a person as his familiarity with the best literature. When I say good literature, I do not mean such magazines as Frank Meriwell, Diamond Dick, and books on the same order, but I mean magazines and books that, by their language and the thought contained, tend to lead on to something higher and nobler in life.

Some one has said that "character is not something that is added to life, but it is life itself." Sad indeed will be the day for any man who becomes contented with the life he is living, with the thoughts he is thinking, and the deeds he is doing, when there is not forever beating at the door of his soul a desire to do something larger which he knows that he was created to do. Character is something that points you onward and upward in life's work, or else drags you to lower and lower depths.

If we wish to build up a good character, the surest and best way is by the coming in contact with the enlightened minds of our country through the medium of the best books and periodicals.

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R. E. Carswell: In my opinion, a man can form no better habit than that of reading the best literature. No matter what a man's vocation is, if he is well read he is in a great deal better condition to meet the emergencies of life than one who is not so informed. A man that forms this habit finds it the greatest pleasure on earth. If men of business would spend their idle hours in reading Shakespeare, Milton, Scott, Longfellow, or any other classic author, there would be more marks of enlightenment among them. If the boys of this College would spend their idle moments reading good

books, instead of "raising cane," as they generally do, the parade ground in front of the main building would not be such a resort on Saturday as it generally is.

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T. R. Batte, Jr.: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." This holds good in literature as well as in anything else. Good books thrown in the way of small children have a great influence on their literary tastes through life; for we find that the best read men began reading good literature in their early youth. A book like "Robinson Crusoe" calls for "Swiss Family Robinson;" then we delight in "Gulliver's Travels" and "Arabian Nights," and after a while we begin to read the works of our greatest writers and thinkers.

Lowell has said that "a complete literary education can be obtained only by the reading of good literature." In this day there can be no excuse for not being well read, with the countless magazines, journals, and other periodicals which furnish literature to suit all tastes.

A literary taste, acquired at home clings to us while abroad, and thus it is, while at college, we still treasure books, the companions of our boyhood.

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Harry Gleason: There is a saying: "We are known by three things: our manners, the company we keep, and the books we read." It is the last thought expressed that we will refer to as related to the subject of good literature.

The literature we read largely forms the thoughts which our minds entertain. Our thoughts prompt our actions and fix our ideas. So we can see that the literature we acquaint ourselves with bears greatly on our characters; in other