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THE RING MY MOTHER WORE.

It is not set with precious gem;
'Tis but a quaint and simple thing,
Yet more than jeweled diadem
I prize this dear old fashioned ring.
She laid it in my trembling hand
And bade me wear it evermore;
There's magic in its narrow band,
The wedding ring my mother wore.

Two names in letters old and dim,
That time and use had worn away,
Are graven on its narrow rim,
The records of a vanished day.
Those names are writ on marble now,
The parted twin have met once more
This ring records each solemn vow—
The wedding ring my mother wore.

Dear patient hand that lies at rest!
Dear ring that binds my soul to her!
Be this my future holy quest:
To see in it God's messenger;
My pas-sport to the city fair,
When this fantastic scene is o'er,
Dear emblem of our circle there,
The wedding ring my mother wore.

Mrs. H. L. Rayne.

BOOKS.

I class my books among my best friends, and some of the happiest hours of my life have been spent in their society.

There is a feeling and an influence which come over us while reading a good book, that almost surpasses description; those only know of it who give their whole attention to what they are reading and read what their minds desire to know. The primary object of reading should be to increase our intelligence; and, to do this, what we read must be impressed on our memories, so that it can be used at some future time. If a book is worth reading at all, it is worth reading carefully and well, and the principal parts should be dwelt upon in our minds after the book is closed, so that an impression will be made.

Socrates said: "Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's documents, so that you shall

come easily by what others have labored hard for. Prefer knowledge to wealth; for the one is transitory, the other perpetual."

This wise saying was written many, many hundreds of years ago, but how true and good it is to-day; it is similar to the advice of our modern Prophet, where he tells us to seek for knowledge and wisdom out of all good books. We also understand that intelligence is the glory of God; and according to our intelligence which we gain in this school, called life, so will our future be throughout the endless ages of eternity.

From this we can readily see that we have no time to waste in reading what we call trash. At the best, during our short lives, we can but read a few of the many choice works that are written. Therefore our selection should be made with the greatest care, and none but the best of books should be read.

The writer is pleased to note that among the young, books on voyages, travels, and natural history, are being read more than formerly, in preference to the old companions of his boyhood days, such as "Bendle's Dime Novels" and "The Nickel Library." This class of books is like low class or low-bred friends and companions; they wield an evil influence wherever read.

The Prophet Nephi said: "I love to search the Scriptures, and ponder over the things of God." He was a wonderful expounder of the Gospel and its principles. The reason why he was so thoroughly conversant with the same is clearly explained in the above quotation.

If you give the matter a little attention, you will find that all our well-informed men and women are those who love to search the Scriptures, and ponder over them. And as it is with religious subjects, so it is with everything you undertake.

You must give it your strict and constant attention. Whatever we intend to make our constant business in life, the books bearing on that subject, should be the first ones for us to buy. This would be the foundation of our library, to which we could add volume after volume as our needs required.

If we desire to understand the fulness of the Gospel, we must get books treating on that subject. If a man intends following a trade, he should do likewise; if that of a carpenter, he should obtain such books as "The Steel Square and How to Use It," and others of a similar nature. Some may smile and say, these things can only be acquired by practice; theory alone is not good. But listen: Most theories came from practical workmen, and such books simply give you the benefit of years of experience.

It is not the number of books which we read that benefit us, but the amount of useful knowledge which we retain in memory. Locke says: "Those who have read of everything, are thought to understand everything too; but it is not always so. Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections; unless we chew them over again, they will not give us strength and nourishment."

Boys, save your dimes and nickels, that you spend for toys or pleasures, which are soon gone, and buy useful books, whose knowledge will benefit you and your future generations forever. Henry Ward Beecher estimated that the average man could buy a hundred books for his library every year with the money that it takes to buy his tobacco and beer.

We should all be proud of our