

OUR MODEL READING CLUB.



THE age in which we live is essentially a reading age, and an age of books. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the love of reading and the comparatively inexhaustible supply of good books have combined to bring about the formation of reading clubs and societies of various kinds

in all parts of the country. The general object of such clubs is to provide for their members social recreation, together with instruction and useful occupation both inside and outside the home, and with such good ends in view they most assuredly deserve to flourish. Unfortunately, however, many of these societies, although promoted with much spirit, and carried on for awhile with considerable zeal, languish for want of that skilful direction which can alone insure success, but which can only be afforded by those who are well read in the literature of past and present times, and who have had practical experience in the working of kindred institutions. Such needful guidance it is our present aim to supply.

"Our Model Reading Club" comprises two distinct divisions—the Private and Home Reading division, and the Ensemble or Company Reading division.

The object of the Model Home Reading Society is to insure among its members the utilisation of leisure moments in the systematic reading of good sound literature. It therefore lays down rules for daily reading, prepared with a view to the healthful and profitable use of the time at the disposal of all who are enrolled in the society; and it provides from month to month lists of books, and portions of books, recommended to be read.

The Ensemble or Company Reading division deals with the assembling together of members for mutual instruction and amusement afforded by reciting or reading aloud some of the best extracts from English literature. Such assemblages may, of course, be either in the home or in halls or other public buildings, according to the size and scope of the particular branch of our "Model Reading Club."

In this division, again, selected programmes of readings of a varied character will be given month by month, affording members plenty of choice in selection.

And now for a few words about

OUR HOME READING DIVISION.

A "Home Reading Society" of the kind we have in view should not be too large to be manageable, and perhaps it should not exceed a hundred members. It should be managed by a Committee of four or five, and a Secretary, who will also act as Treasurer. As a rule, the promoter of the society will be the best person to act as Secretary. All members should be required to pay a small annual subscription to cover expenses.

As already explained, the object of such a society is to promote systematic reading of sound literature. All members should therefore bind themselves to read selected books for a given number of hours every week, and should pay a small fine whenever they do not fulfil their undertaking. The time to be devoted to reading may vary in different societies, but should not be less than two, nor more than six hours per week—that is to say, there should be an average daily reading of from twenty minutes to an hour, Sundays of course being excluded. Furthermore, in order to insure steady attention to the subject-matter of the book, no reading of less than twenty consecutive minutes should be allowed to count.

Certain rules as to the time of reading should be laid down. Thus, late hours should be discouraged, and no reading should be allowed after 10.30 p.m. Reading in bed, either at night or in the morning, should not be reckoned, except in the case of invalids. Neither should reading at meal-times be permitted, since doctors agree that, in order to promote good digestion, the attention should be concentrated upon the meal, and not be enchained by a book.

Of course, in a society of this kind, the word of each individual member must be taken as to whether he or she has read each week for the specified number of hours. Each member should therefore keep a time-table, to be forwarded to the Secretary once a month or once a quarter, each week's doings being recorded somewhat in this way:—

Dec. 1.	Hallam's "Middle Ages of Europe"	45 minutes.
" 2.	Do. do.	50 "
" 3.	Macaulay's "Essay on Lord Clive"	55 "
" 4.	Tennyson's "In Memoriam"	30 "
" 5.	Morley's "First Sketch of English Literature"	35 "
" 6.	Reviews of Current Literature in Weekly Papers	25 "
		240 " or 4 hrs.

As far as possible, notes should be made of all books read, together with short abstracts of them.

The sums received in payments of fines, together with any surplus arising from subscriptions after payment of expenses, may be devoted to a prize fund, prizes being given for the best notes on books or for abstracts of them, and for the best short biographies, essays, &c.

The following is a specimen of the rules that may advantageously be laid down for the management of "Our Home Reading Society":—

1. The number of members must not exceed ———*
2. The Society will be controlled by a Committee of four members, and by a Secretary and Treasurer, chosen by the whole body of members.
3. Members must undertake to read works selected from the monthly list issued by the Committee, during an average of at least ——— hour† a week, no reading of less than twenty consecutive minutes being reckoned. Only one book to be read each day. Reading in bed, at meals, after 10 p.m., or on Sundays not to be calculated. Reading aloud to count only to the person reading, and *not* to the listeners.
4. Under special circumstances, books of a solid and instructive character, other than those in the monthly lists, may be read by members, but only after notice has been given to, and assent obtained from, the acting Committee.
5. The subscription for each member will be two shillings per annum, payable in advance.
6. Members must report every fourth week to the Secretary as to the books read, and send a weekly time-table.
7. Members who read for less than the appointed weekly average must pay a fine of one penny for every week in default, sending the fines to the Secretary, together with their report.
8. After the payment of postages, printing expenses, &c., the balance of the subscriptions and fines will be devoted to the establishment of prizes for the best and most regular courses of reading, for abstracts of books read, for notes on historical episodes, and for short biographies and essays, &c., such prizes to be announced from time to time by the Committee.

The following is the suggested programme of books, any two of which to be read in whole or in part during the first four weeks:—

- Ruskin's "Stones of Venice."
- Milton's "Paradise Lost."
- Mackenzie Wallace's "Russia."
- John Stuart Mill's "Political Economy."
- Farrar's "Early Days of Christianity."
- Dean Church's "Life of Lord Bacon."

It will be wise to confine the attention to *two* of these books only until they have been carefully read.

OUR ENSEMBLE OR COMPANY READING SOCIETY.

The object of this division of "Our Model Reading Club" is to provide social recreation of an instructive character during the winter evenings. With this end in view, it is proposed that the members should meet together monthly for the purpose of reading, reciting, or hearing selections from the best English literature.

In the case of small societies, each of the members may well take it in turn to have the meeting at his own house, it being laid down decisively that either (1) no refreshments are to be expected or provided, or that (2) refreshments be limited to tea and coffee.

If the society be a large one, a hall or other public building should be engaged once a month. In any case a Committee and Secretary must be appointed, and special rules should be laid down as to the length of readings and recitations, and the selection of readers. As a general rule, *no* reading or recitation should occupy much more than twenty minutes in delivery, and ten minutes would, perhaps, be preferable. The members should be selected as nearly as possible in turn, so that all may have an opportunity

of improving their reading, of overcoming nervousness, and of acquiring confidence in the presence of a number of hearers.

Every member must, of course, pay a small subscription—probably about half-a-crown a quarter will be sufficient; but this must, of course, depend upon the cost of the hall or room, if one be hired.

For the first evening it is proposed there should be "Variety Readings," and one or other of the following specimen programmes may be selected:—

FIRST PROGRAMME.

<i>Title.</i>	<i>Author.</i>	<i>Estimated time occupied in delivery.</i>
"Hervé Riel" (one of the author's later ballads)	Robert Browning	... 10 minutes.
"The Tar Baby" ("Nights with Uncle Remus")	Joel Chandler Harris	15 "
The Trial Scene from "The Merchant of Venice" (each part to be taken by a different person)	Shakespeare	... 30 "
"Her Letter"	Bret Harte	... 10 "
"The Northern Cobbler"	Tennyson	... 15 "
"The Blind Linnet"	Robert Buchanan	... 10 "
		90 "

SECOND PROGRAMME.

"The Showman's Courtship" ...	Artemus Ward...	... 10 minutes.
The Scaffold Scene from "John Inglesant"	J. H. Shorthouse	... 25 "
"The Ballad of Carmilhan" ...	Longfellow	... 15 "
"Captain Reece" (one of the Bab Ballads)	W. S. Gilbert	... 10 "
"The Friendly Waiter" (from "David Copperfield")	Charles Dickens	... 25 "
"Shandon Bells" (from "The Reliques of Father Prout") ... ..		... 5 "
		90 "

Of course it is not intended that either of these programmes should be rigidly adhered to. They are merely given as specimens, and if desired, a new programme may be made up of any of the selections.

With a view to encourage the formation of societies on the lines here laid down, the following Prizes are offered for competition among the Members of genuine Reading Clubs:—

Home Division:—Books to the value of Three Guineas (published price), for the best and most satisfactory abstract of any two of the complete books recommended to be read during the session. The abstract should give a concise account of the object and plan of the book, and of its contents.

Ensemble Division:—Books to the value of Three Guineas (published price) for the best set of three programmes for "Variety Readings" (duration—90 minutes each programme). The selections given in the Magazine must not be included.

The abstract of each book should not exceed one printed page of this Magazine in length. Both abstracts and programmes should reach the Editor soon after the close of the session in May. Further notification will be given of the last date on which abstracts and programmes will be received.

Competitors must be *bonâ fide* Members of Reading Clubs, numbering not less than *twelve* Members for the Home Division, and *twenty* Members for the Ensemble Division.

* According to the leisure at the disposal of those who take the management.

† Two, three, four, five, or six.

Amphibia, or that which dwells both on land and in water, like the frog, were found. This great beast had strong limbs for moving by steps on land, and teeth of destructive shape and size, unique in complexity of structure, whence they are called by the name of "Labyrinthodontia." We give a cut representing the print of their hand-like feet in the sands over which they moved.

What a strange picture this work brings before us of the condition of our native land in those primeval ages! How different everything must have been!—the waters of ocean covering what are now high mountain cliffs; the sites of our great cities perhaps the centres

of marshes or of forests; the climate modified, so that tropical animals could live and thrive there. Above all, not a man, savage or civilised, to be seen. Only huge saurians, wandering and splashing over the marshy plains; serpents hiding their dangerous folds amid the rank vegetation, and strange monstrous shapes, undreamt of even in the wildest vagaries of human fancy, flitting through the sultry air; the crocodile and the alligator swarming in the ancient rivers, and the very ocean filled with unimagined monsters. Truly the results of science are more wonderful than fairy tales, as from the broken and scattered rocks we laboriously spell out the earlier history of the world.

OUR MODEL READING CLUB.

SECOND PAPER.



REMISING—we hope, not without cause—that Model Reading Clubs have been established in many parts of the country on the basis laid down in our first paper, we now proceed to say a few additional words about our

HOME READING DIVISION.

It has been very well remarked that the value of regular and consistent reading lies not so much in the *number* of books perused as in the *way* in which they are read. One good book carefully studied will do the reader more good than a hundred books scanned in a desultory way. For this reason instructive books—whether histories, biographies, travels, science treatises, or what not—should always be perused thoughtfully, difficulties should be reasoned out, important passages should be marked for further study, notes should be taken, and a careful summary of the entire work should be made. The ability to write a good condensed summary or abstract of a book affords, perhaps, the best proof that the reader has really mastered its contents.

Professor Morley, in his "First Sketch of English Literature," has given many good examples of the way in which the whole purpose and method of a book may be summed up in a very few lines. Take, for instance, his abstract of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," or of Locke's "Essay concerning Human Understanding." Or, to quote one case, read something of what he has to say of Wordsworth's poem—

"THE PRELUDE, OR GROWTH OF A POET'S MIND."

"Wordsworth's purpose was to review thoughtfully the course of his own mind through surrounding influences. . . . After tracing his life from childhood to the days of his enthusiastic sympathy with the French Revolution, he showed how, after settling down with his sister Dorothy

in a small cottage at Grasmere—to which a little later he brought his wife—the influence of Dorothy, and communion with nature, brought him calmer sense of the great harmony of creation, and of the place of man in the great whole. His interest in man grew deeper as he cared less for the abstract questions about life, and more for the real man:

"Studios more to see
Great truths, than touch and handle little ones."

"We have fought our battle, and won freedom enough to work on and show the use of freedom—to what end the powers of civil polity were given. All we have now to do is to remove hindrances and furnish aids to the development of each individual. Let each unit become better and wiser, and the whole nation will grow in strength and wisdom by the growth of its constituent atoms. There are millions helpless or mischievous, because not born to conditions which have made the lives of others happy. We are not idly to lament 'what man has made of man,' but actively to mend the mischief. Whoever makes his own life and its influence wholesome, or in any way helps to make lives about him wholesome, adds thereby to the strength of his country, and is doing the true work of the nineteenth century. Having gained, said Wordsworth,

"A more judicious knowledge of the worth
And dignity of individual man;
No composition of the brain, but man—
Of whom we read, the man whom we behold
With our own eyes—I could not but inquire,
Not with less interest than heretofore,
But greater, though in spirit more subdued,
Why is this glorious creature to be found
One only in ten thousand? What one is,
Why may not millions be?"

"Upon this thought Wordsworth rested. Here, also, his narrative draws to its close, touching the key-note of the days in which we live. Wordsworth made it the one work of his life as a poet to uphold the 'dignity of individual man,' strengthen the sense of all the harmonies of nature, and show how, among them all, when taking its true place,

"The mind of man becomes
A thousand times more beautiful than the earth
On which he dwells, above this frame of things
(Which, 'mid all revolution in the hopes
And fears of men, doth still remain unchanged)
In beauty exalted, as it is itself
Of quality and fabric more divine."

In another paper we may possibly give some further hints as to the best method of producing an abstract of a book. For the present, however, we must pass on to give another short list of books which will well repay reading:—

Buckland's "Curiosities of Natural History," First Series.
Picton's "Life of Oliver Cromwell."

Smiles' "Self-Help."
 Lady Brassey's "Voyage of the *Sunbeam*."
 Professor Seeley's "Expansion of England."
 Tyndall's "Sound."

In our Ensemble or Company Reading Division we propose this month to have

AN EVENING WITH LONGFELLOW.

Apart altogether from the beauty of his verse and the graces of his style, there is a great charm in the infinite variety of Longfellow's muse. In this respect the American poet resembles the English laureate, so that people of diverse tastes may spend a very delightful evening in the company of either of them.

In the case of Longfellow—so great is the wealth of available material—it is no easy matter to know what to reject in preparing a programme of readings to last from one and a half to two hours only. The following suggestions are therefore put forward with no little hesitation, although it is hoped that the selections are fairly representative of all that is best in the poet's work.

Short poems and ballads Longfellow has given us in abundance, and it is easy enough to select from them sufficient for three or four evenings; but it will be well, also, to have an extract from one or other of his longer works, prefacing it with a short summary of the story, so that the bearing of the reading or recitation may be comprehended by those hearers who are not familiar with the context. Thus many good passages may be selected from such poems as "Evangeline," "The Courtship of Miles Standish," "The Golden Legend," and "The Song of Hiawatha." Take, for example, the scene from "The Courtship of Miles Standish," where John Alden pleads for the love of Priscilla, the Puritan maiden, not for himself (although he dearly loves her), but on behalf of his friend, Miles Standish, the Puritan captain. The reading may be prefaced somewhat in this way:—

"In the Old Colony days, in Plymouth, the land of the Pilgrims,"

Miles Standish was the brave captain of the little Puritan host, his chief care being to guard the colony against the attacks of hostile Indians. He was a widower, and it occurred to him one day that he would do well to wed Priscilla, a sweet Puritan maiden. He was, however, braver in war than in love; and although he often argued that

—"if you wish a thing to be well done,
 You must do it yourself, you must not leave it to others,"

yet he did not feel inclined to carry out his own precept in his love affairs and risk a refusal. As he himself said—

"I can march up to a fortress, and summon the place to surrender,
 But march up to a woman with such a proposal, I dare not.
 I'm not afraid of bullets, nor shot from the mouth of a cannon,
 But of a thundering 'No!' point-blank from the mouth of a woman—
 That, I confess, I'm afraid of, nor am I ashamed to confess it!"

Therefore he begged his particular friend, John Alden, a young man, and a scribe rather than a fighter, to plead his suit for him. Now John Alden himself loved Priscilla, and Priscilla was in nowise averse to John; but their feelings had never been expressed. At this crisis, therefore, John was sorely tried—love urging him one way, friendship the other. When, however, Miles Standish appealed to him in the name of their friendship, John Alden made answer—

"The name of friendship is sacred:

What you demand in that name, I have not the power to deny you!
 So the strong will prevailed, subduing and moulding the gentler;
 Friendship prevailed over love, and Alden went on his errand."

At this point the reading or recitation may well commence, beginning, say, with the line—

"So through the Plymouth woods John Alden went on his errand,"

showing his manly determination to stifle his own love and act honestly by his friend, recounting his earnest pleading on that friend's behalf, and ending with the well-known passage—

"But as he warmed and glowed, in his simple and eloquent language,
 Quite forgetful of self, and full of the praise of his rival,
 Archly the maiden smiled, and, with eyes overrunning with laughter,
 Said, in a tremulous voice, 'Why don't you speak for yourself, John?'"

Longfellow's songs have been set to music many a time and oft, and it may add to the pleasure of the evening to preface and conclude the readings with a song or duet—"The Reaper and the Flowers," "The Arrow and the Song," "The Village Blacksmith," or "Excelsior," for example.

Amongst shorter poems and ballads which may be read or recited in their entirety may be mentioned the following:—"A Psalm of Life," "The Burial of the Minnisink," "King Christian," "The Happiest Land," "The Wreck of the *Hesperus*," "The Luck of Edenhall," "The Slave's Dream," "The Old Clock on the Stairs," "The Ladder of St. Augustine," "The Phantom Ship," "Victor Galbraith," "Children," "The Belfry of Bruges," "Paul Revere's Ride," "King Robert of Sicily," "Torquemada," "The Children's Hour," "Killed at the Ford," and "The Ballad of Carmilhan."

To make a selection for one evening, a good specimen programme might be composed as follows:—

Song	...	...	"The Village Blacksmith."
Recitation	...	...	"The Wreck of the <i>Hesperus</i> ."
Reading	...	...	"John Alden and Priscilla" (from "The Courtship of Miles Standish," with introductory explanation as previously suggested).
Recitation	...	...	"The Old Clock on the Stairs."
Reading	...	...	"King Robert of Sicily."
Recitation	...	...	"The Children's Hour."
Reading	...	...	"Paul Revere's Ride."
Recitation	...	...	"The Happiest Land."
Recitation	...	...	"Killed at the Ford."
Reading	...	...	"The Burial of the Minnisink."
Duet	...	...	"Excelsior."



OUR MODEL READING CLUB.

THIRD PAPER.



DOGBERRY.

(From "The Leopold Shakespeare.")

IT is scarcely likely that the members of our "Home Reading Division" will as yet have found time to read exhaustively one-half, or even one-third, of the books given in our previous lists. Still, for the sake of those who seek variety, or who may not have been able

to readily obtain copies of the works already mentioned, a third list is given, as follows:—

Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic."
Macaulay's "Essays."
Tennyson's "In Memoriam."
Bunyan's "Holy War."
Carlyle's "Life of Schiller."

Of the second of these, it would of course be scarcely possible to make an abstract, while the first work on the list covers too much ground to be very suitable for the purpose. Both books, however, afford good reading and admirable examples of sound English. Of the three remaining books, abstracts may with advantage be made, and, with this object in view, we would especially commend Bunyan's "Holy War" and Tennyson's "In Memoriam" to the notice of our readers.

In connection with our "Company Reading Society," we propose to give some particulars this month of

A SHAKESPEARE READING.

On the wealth of material for readings in the works of the prince of dramatists it is, of course, quite unnecessary to enlarge. Very many programmes for separate evenings could readily be compiled, the only difficulty being to select such gems as may be to some extent perfect although torn from their settings—extracts which are more or less complete in themselves, and easy of comprehension apart from their context. The following programme is perhaps fairly representative of Shakespeare's many-sided genius, although it will probably be found too long for any single evening. However, two or three of the selections can be sacrificed, according to individual taste.

Song . . . "Sigh no more, Ladies" *Much Ado about Nothing*,
Act II., Scene 3.
Reading or } Shylock and Antonio . . . *The Merchant of Venice*, Act
Recitation } I., Scene 3.
Reading . . . Romeo and Juliet . . . *Romeo and Juliet*, Act II.,
Scene 2.
Reading . . . Dogberry and the Watch *Much Ado about Nothing*,
Act III., Scene 3, and
Act IV., Scene 2.
Recitation . . . Macbeth's Soliloquy . . . *Macbeth*, Act II., Scene 1.
Recitation . . . Marc Antony's Oration *Julius Caesar*, Act III., Scene 2.

Reading . . . Falstaff and the Robbers *King Henry IV., Part I.*,
Act II., Scene 4.
Reading . . . Hubert and Arthur . . . *King John*, Act IV., Scene 1.
Recitation . . . "All the World's a Stage" *As You Like It*, Act II.,
Scene 7.
Song . . . "It was a Lover and } *As You Like It*, Act V.,
his Lass" } Scene 3.

The scene from *The Merchant of Venice* may either be read by one person, or (preferably) by three readers, representing the different characters—Shylock, Bassanio, and Antonio.

The extract from *Romeo and Juliet* is the celebrated love-scene in Capulet's orchard—Romeo standing beneath Juliet's window—commencing with Romeo's

"He jests at scars that never felt a wound,"

and ending with Juliet's farewell:—

"Good-night! good-night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,
That I shall say good-night till it be morrow."

"Dogberry and the Watch" affords a capital comic reading, and may well commence where Verges says, "Give them their charge, neighbour Dogberry," ending with Dogberry's "Adieu—be vigilant, I beseech you," in Scene 3. Then, with two or three words of explanation as to the arrest of Borachio and Conrade by the Watch, the whole of Scene 2, Act IV., may be read.

"Macbeth's Soliloquy" consists of the short speech commencing

"Is this a dagger which I see before me?"

and ending with the scene.

Marc Antony's oration over the dead body of the murdered Cæsar is a splendid extract for recitation. It will be wise to omit all the exclamations of the citizens, and to give these four long passages of Marc Antony's speech, with a short pause between each—

(1) "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears,"

to

"My heart is in the coffin there with Cæsar,
And I must pause till it come back to me."

(2) "But yesterday the word of Cæsar might
Have stood against the world;"

to

"Bequeathing it, as a rich legacy,
Unto their issue."

(3) "If you have tears, prepare to shed them now."

to

"Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors."

(4) "Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up
To such a sudden flood of mutiny."

to

"Were I Brutus,
And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony
Would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue
In every wound of Cæsar, that should move
The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny."

The reading from *King Henry IV.* should begin with Falstaff's exclamation, "A plague of all cowards, still say I," followed by the Prince's question, "What's the matter?" and it should end with Falstaff's entreaty, "Ah! no more of that, Hal, an thou lovest me!"

The extract from *King John* should commence with Prince Arthur's "Good morrow, Hubert," and should continue to the close of the scene, wherein Hubert, persuaded out of his ill-intent, cries—

"Pretty child, sleep doubtless, and secure,
That Hubert, for the wealth of all the world,
Will not offend thee."

Jaques' description of human life from *As You Like It* forms a good short recitation with which to conclude an evening's entertainment.

In one or two of the selected readings a few words may be found which are scarcely suitable for mixed audiences; but there need be no fear on this score if

Mr. H. Courthope Bowen's "Shakspeare Reading Book" be used, since it contains all the plays mentioned, and many others, specially abridged for the use of schools and for public readings. Those who seek a full and trustworthy text of the great dramatist's complete works should, however, procure "The Leopold Shakespeare," edited by Professor Delius and Mr. F. J. Furnivall.

If preferred, one complete play may be given on each Shakespeare evening, instead of selections from a number of plays. In this case it will generally be found necessary to omit some of the less important scenes—those which bear least on the main story—as, indeed, is almost always done when Shakespeare's plays are acted. The following are some of the most suitable plays for reading in their entirety, or as abridged by Mr. Bowen:—*The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Julius Cæsar*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.



GRANDMAMMA'S VALENTINE.

BY ELIZABETH CAMPBELL WINTER.



MERRY lot of girls we were—nearly a dozen of us—and we were shouting with laughter, the greater number of us; while an occasional quiet one was enjoying a keener, though more subdued pleasure, as we passed round our valentines among each other, and admired, or laughed at, or ridiculed each one, according as it deserved.

Cousins and friends we were; and we were congregated in grandma's great front room, where we were always welcome, and where we dearly loved to gather and listen to stories of nearly half a century ago. There the dear old lady sat now, in her favourite corner, knitting stockings for her youngest grandson, while the "click, click, click" of her busy needles made a pleasant music in the pauses of our laughter. Now and then she would look at us over her spectacles and smile, and then we would smile too, and turn towards her some outrageous caricature as an explanation of a more than usually explosive burst of laughter.

"Grandma is laughing at us. I'm sure she thinks we're a silly lot of geese," said Cousin Fanny.

"Nothing of the sort!" I protested in defence of myself, for I was behaving in a very uproarious man-

ner. "I'm sure grandma was just as wild over her valentines as any of us."

Grandma beamed assent.

"Tell us, grandma; we would feel encouraged," said Fanny.

"To carry on worse than you are doing now?" laughed grandma. "Not that I think you need the encouragement, Fanny; but it's true I was just as glad of my valentines as the gayest of you; and, to be quite frank, I can even enjoy that pleasure yet. I got a valentine to-day."

"Oh, grandma! You dear, giddy, young thing!" cried Hetty (she was grandmother's pet, and privileged to do and say what she pleased). "I must be looking after you," and she slid down on the ottoman at grandma's feet, and flung her arms about her. "Now, dearest granny, tell us all about it. I know it must be quite a story. Be good, now, and I'll promise not to be a very strict duenna, though I did catch you and Mr. Allison looking at each other last Sunday in church."

Grandma laughed merrily, and it was pretty to see the pink colour flush up in her dear, faded cheek.

After protesting that the story was a very old one, and that it could not interest any one save the actors in it, and that it wasn't much of a story any way, and

OUR MODEL READING CLUB.

FOURTH PAPER.



SINCE the publication of the first paper of our series, we have received several letters from readers of the Magazine, who appear to be in some little doubt as to whether they are eligible to compete for the prizes offered; and yet the conditions first published seem clear enough

—that competitors must be *bonâ fide* members of Reading Clubs, numbering not less than *twelve* members for the Home Division, and *twenty* members for the Ensemble Division. Members of Reading Clubs in existence before the formation of "Our Model Reading Club" may of course compete, and will stand in exactly the same position as members of clubs formed on the basis of the rules laid down in these pages.

In our next paper we shall publish the final regulations as to date of delivery, &c., for both abstracts and programmes. We shall also repeat the lists of selected books for home reading, specially marking those which appear to be most suitable for abstracts.

Here is our fourth list of books for home reading, any two of which may be read during the month:—

Tennyson's "Idylls of the King."
John Forster's "Life of Goldsmith."
Dean Stanley's "Life of Dr. Arnold."
Archbishop Trench's "Study of Words."
Butler's "Analogy of Religion."
Professor Tyndall's "Heat: a Mode of Motion."
Carpenter's "Energy in Nature."

As has already been insisted upon, the value of regular and consistent reading lies in the way in which the books are read, and not in the number perused. Therefore, let no member of "Our Model Reading Club" attempt to do too much in one month. Read slowly, read carefully, analyse what you read, understand what you read, and strive to remember, since your *regular* reading should always be worth remembering. You may, of course, read at times for purposes of relaxation only, but this is another matter altogether.

Members of Reading Societies will probably desire to provide every now and then an evening's entertainment for their juvenile friends—always an enthusiastic audience if well catered for. We propose, therefore, to make a few suggestions about

OUR CHILDREN'S EVENING.

In making choice of readings in prose and verse likely to interest young people, these points should always be borne in mind:—(1) The majority of the selections should be *short*; (2) the poems and stories should be bright in character, one or two pathetic pieces only being given; (3) they should be full of incident; and (4) no ghost stories or tales introducing harrowing scenes should be included.

If desired, the readings may be illustrated by aid of the magic-lantern, since magic-lantern slides and dissolving views may readily be obtained to accompany many of the best-known children's stories. Among these may be mentioned Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe," Dickens' "Christmas Carol," Hans Andersen's fairy stories, Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," Cowper's "John Gilpin," &c.

Some writers have provided in their works abundant stores of material for good readings for children. Take, for example, Charles Dickens and Hans Christian Andersen. The two series of negro folk-tales—"Uncle Remus; or, Mr. Fox, Mr. Rabbit, and Mr. Terrapin," and "Nights with Uncle Remus"—are capital for the purpose; and good selections may be made from some of the best living writers of children's books, although as a rule these books are more fit for children's home reading than for public recitals.

The present purpose will, perhaps, best be served by giving a list of suitable poems and extracts, but it must be understood that this list is merely suggestive, and does not profess to be in any way complete. If it were, many pages of the Magazine would soon be filled. However, all the selections here given have stood the test of a public trial, and it may therefore be taken for granted that they are of a nature to please children.*

PROSE.

Bob Cratchit's Christmas Dinner (from "A Christmas Carol")	Charles Dickens.
Boots at the Holly-Tree Inn	" "
The Cheap Jack (from "Dr. Marigold's Prescription")	" "
Tom Brown's Start for School	Thomas Hughes.
Tom Brown and Little Arthur (From "Tom Brown's Schooldays")	
Pigwacket Centre School	Oliver Wendell Holmes.
Selection from "Alice in Wonderland"	Lewis Carroll.
Friday and the Bear	Daniël Defoe.
The Footprint in the Sand (From "Robinson Crusoe")	
The Fir-Tree	Hans Christian Andersen.
The Little Match Girl	" " "
The Ugly Duckling	" " "
The Discontented Pendulum	Jane Taylor.
Moses and the Green Spectacles (from "The Vicar of Wakefield")	Oliver Goldsmith.
Jack in the Apple-Tree (from "Mr. Midshipman Easy")	Captain Marryat.
My Examination (from "Peter Simple")	" "
The Natural Bridge of Virginia	Elihu Burritt.
The Siege of Torquilstone	Sir Walter Scott.
The Tournament (From "Ivanhoe")	
Deer-Slayer and the Indian (from "The Deer-Slayer")	Fenimore Cooper.
The Laborious Ant	Mark Twain.
Mr. Fox and Mr. Buzzard	Joel Chandler Harris.
Mr. Rabbit Finds his Match at Last (From "Uncle Remus")	
Why the Alligator's Back is Rough (from "Nights with Uncle Remus")	" " "

* Many of these pieces, both prose and verse, are included in "Gleanings from Popular Authors," two volumes, issued by Cassell and Co.

	VERSE.	
King John and the Abbot		<i>Old Ballad.</i>
The Children in the Wood		" "
Casabianca		<i>Mrs. Hemans.</i>
John Gilpin		<i>William Cowper.</i>
Nursery Reminiscences		
The Jackdaw of Rheims	}	<i>Rev. Thomas Barham.</i>
A Misadventure at Margate (From "The Ingoldsby Legends")		
How we brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix		<i>Robert Browning.</i>
The Pied Piper of Hamelin		" "
The Armada		<i>Lord Macaulay.</i>
Ivry		" "
The Lay of Horatius		" "
The Battle of Blenheim		<i>Robert Southey.</i>
We are Seven		<i>William Wordsworth.</i>
The May Queen		<i>Alfred Tennyson.</i>
The Charge of the Light Brigade		" "

The Revenge	<i>Alfred Tennyson.</i>
The Enchanted Shirt	<i>Colonel John Hay.</i>
A North Pole Story	Author of "Poems Written for a Child."
Ranger	" "
Winstanley	<i>Jean Ingelow.</i>

From the above selections a very good programme for one evening might be made up as follows :—

The Jackdaw of Rheims (<i>Rev. Thomas Barham</i>)	10 minutes.
Boots at the Holly-Tree Inn (<i>Charles Dickens</i>)	20 "
The Pied Piper of Hamelin (<i>Robert Browning</i>)	15 "
Selection from "Alice in Wonderland" (<i>Lewis Carroll</i>)	15 "
King John and the Abbot (from "The Percy Reliques")	5 "
Pigwacket Centre School (<i>Oliver Wendell Holmes</i>)	15 "
Mr. Fox and Mr. Buzzard (<i>Joel Chandler Harris</i>)	10 "
The Charge of the Light Brigade (<i>Alfred Tennyson</i>)	5 "
	95 minutes.

AN OLD MAID'S FRIENDS.

A STORY IN TWO CHAPTERS.—CHAPTER THE FIRST.



RANG the bell, and said I had come on business. Thereupon the servant showed me into a room at the back of the house, which the squire used once a week as an office, and where he saw his tenants. Most women hate business, and I am no exception, and I quite dreaded my interview with the lean old man, though it was only about a chimney-pot that I had come.

The squire, Mr. Chester, was at the end of the table writing, but to my relief, opposite to him, sitting the wrong way about on a chair, his arms leaning on the back, was Maurice Chester. He jumped up when I appeared, shook hands with a peculiarly firm and manly grasp, looked pleased to see me, offered me a seat, and asked if I felt tired after my walk, so that I scarcely noticed the squire's curt "Good morning."

I was beginning to tell the young man what a pull it was up the hill for a person no longer young ("Nonsense, Miss Duncan!"—smiling) and how I had met the vicar, and what he had said, and what I had said—when the squire coldly remarked that he should be glad to know if I had any matter of business which required his attention.

I felt much ashamed, for it seemed as if he thought I was gossiping, whereas there is nothing I dislike more. However, I told him about the chimney-pot and the slates, and the end of it was, young Mr. Chester offered to walk back with me and see what damage the wind had done, and how it could be put right.

I have been accustomed to walk about by myself all my life. I never was pretty, even when I was young. I never had an offer, or anything approaching one. I thought I liked to be independent. I could not have believed how pleasant it is to have the gates opened, and to be helped over the stiles; and I blushed like a girl when he picked me a flower I admired. I am afraid I have missed a great deal in life after all.

We were going what *he* called a short cut, which in-

involved crossing a brook over some stepping-stones, half helping, half carrying me. My reticule, umbrella, and waterproof he had taken to the other side first, for the fine young fellow marched across in about two strides, when I heard a voice in a "sweet girlish treble" call out, "Mr. Chester, will you help me too?"

I was rather startled, and should have dropped my reticule if I had had it; but while I was standing in some agitation from the shock and the difficulties of the crossing, I suddenly found myself gently landed on the bank, and my companion off again to fetch the owner of the voice.

She was a very pretty girl—Katie Ward, daughter of the late vicar. I knew her well, and liked her in a general sort of way; but I did not like to see her with Maurice Chester, and they had been a good deal together of late.

She was pleasant and amiable, and not *much* of a flirt; young Chester also was pleasant and amiable, and not much else, so far as I could see; so why I did not like it, or what business it was of mine, it would be hard to say. But as she stood on the other side of the stream, all pink and white, and pretty and fresh, looking unutterably sweet—I can't endure sweetness and light—and this fine broad-shouldered young man standing holding out his hand to help her with a certain air of protection which he had shown to me, and a certain air of deference and chivalry which he had *not* shown to me, I felt jarred. Mere old maid's jealousy of a pretty girl, I said to myself, and tried to play "gooseberry" as agreeably as I could; but my walk was spoilt.

That was in the summer. In the autumn I went out to tea one evening at Ivy Cottage, as Mrs. Ward's house was called. Though quite early in the evening, it was becoming dusk, and the soft glimmer of a half-concealed moon shone on the sea. It was not too dark for me to distinguish two figures some way ahead—one by its height easily recognisable; the other slight, fluttering, feminine, and not uncommon; but I knew by instinct whose.

To proceed now to the special features of Cavendish—its economy of time and money. A College tutor of great experience, writing for the information of parents, has fixed £138 as the lowest possible, and £202 as the average, cost per annum at any of the older foundations. But this, be it understood, includes no provision for private "coaches," and presumes the minimum of residence, about twenty-four weeks. At Cavendish, board, lodging, firing, washing, and tuition, for thirty-two weeks—covering a term in the Long Vacation—and all University fees, except the matriculation and the B.A. degree fees, can be obtained by the aspiring Bachelor for eighty guineas. During his first two years each student is allowed one room; and in the furnishing of this apartment care has been taken to merge, as far as possible, the bed-room in the study. For a trifling extra payment, the third-year student obtains two rooms. All meals are taken at one table; and spacious common rooms have been provided for reading, recreation, and social intercourse.

As to the incidental expenses, they will, of course, vary with individual idiosyncracies. What Dr. Arnold said of a public school—"A certain power of self-government is pre-supposed in all who come to it"—is equally applicable to Cavendish. No pressure is brought to bear on any of the students in regard to their personal expenditure; but both by precept and example it is sought to impress upon them that plain living and high thinking should be the motto of their lives. Personally, I was not extravagant; yet, on the other hand, I never denied myself any reasonable gratification. I indulged in almost all the sports of flood and field, and very soon became an active member of the Union. The fees and subscriptions for these purposes, my books, my academics, and my travelling expenses, were all paid out of my allowance. My studies were never neglected; but when they were done, the social joys of College life found me no recreant knight. In relating these details my object is

to convince parents and guardians that if they are prepared to expend £120 per annum, they will find that sum will cover at Cavendish all the necessities and most of the legitimate pleasures of University life. For those from whom necessity demands a little self-denial, £110 would suffice, perhaps even £105. Allowing the same amount for incidental expenses at the older Colleges, which would in most cases be found inadequate, the reader will see that residence in Cavendish means an economy of at least £50 a year.

The age (16) of admission must commend itself to all who are compelled to begin the battle of life early. And now that the University has taken measures to foster the study of modern languages, this College ought specially to attract those intended for a commercial career. The course of examinations for the Ordinary Degree need not deter any one of ordinary abilities and average perseverance. Nor does the fact that the Cavendish students undergo, as a rule, their final ordeal three years earlier than their comrades in other Colleges, have any appreciable effect in increasing the number of failures. This may perhaps be explained by the stricter discipline and closer supervision of studies which exists in the new institution. But, after all, its practice in regard to the reception of youthful students is no modern innovation, but merely a revival of the ancient usage of our seats of learning. Cranmer, the fiery martyr, matriculated under fourteen years of age, and received a Fellowship before his majority. Spenser, author of the "Faerie Queen," donned the Bachelor's hood at nineteen, doffing it four years later for the Master's gown. Philosopher Bacon, when a mere boy of thirteen, was pacing the cloisters of Trinity, and three years later quitted the University in disgust at the low state of learning which prevailed there. At sixteen, Milton was already meditating in the gardens of Christ's; while Pitt—but the list is inexhaustible.

WILL. M. SAUNDERS, M.A.

OUR MODEL READING CLUB.

FIFTH PAPER.



NE of the difficulties which beset the heads of households in this age of books is to decide what works in the lighter literature of the day—poetry and fiction—are suitable for the general reading of the younger members of the family. So strongly has been felt the want of some authoritative guidance in this direction, that we have received numerous communications from parents urging us to do something to fill the gap, and from time to time to give lists of stories which are not only entertaining, but may be read with real advantage, on account either of the information they afford, or of the lessons for good which they inculcate. After thoughtful consideration, we have determined to

extend (if possible) our "Model Reading Club" papers as desired, and to give some account of all the best books for young people as they are published. It should, however, be clearly understood that these stories are not to be read during *club* hours, and that fiction should never be allowed to interfere with the necessary thoughtful study of good works of history, biography, literature, science, and travel.

In this paper we do not propose to speak of any of the new books of the year (these we shall hope to notice from time to time), but it may be useful to give a list—though of course in no way a complete one—of stories already published which may with safety be put in the hands of all young people.

Leaving books for children out of the question for the present, we subjoin two lists, one especially for girls of from fourteen or fifteen years of age upwards, the other for boys of about the same age; although it must be premised that many of the books in the first list will be appreciated by boys also, while several of the boys' stories will have plenty of attraction for young ladies.

Here is the list of selected books for girls:—

"A Woman's Kingdom"	<i>Miss Mulock.</i>
"John Halifax, Gentleman"	" "
"A Noble Life"	" "
"Christian's Mistake"	" "
"Ministering Children"	<i>Maria L. Charlesworth.</i>
"The Ministry of Life"	" "
"The Draytons and the Davenants"	" "
"Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family"	<i>Mrs. Charles.</i>
"Diary of Mrs. Kitty Trevelyan"	" "
"The Heir of Redclyffe"	<i>Charlotte Yonge.</i>
"The Pillars of the House"	" "
"The Daisy Chain"	" "
"The Trial"	" "
"The Dove in the Eagle's Nest"	" "
"Little Women"	<i>Miss L. M. Alcott.</i>
"Little Women Wedded"	" "
"An Old-fashioned Girl"	" "
"School Girls"	<i>Annie Carey.</i>
"Working to Win"	<i>Maggie Symington.</i>
"The Wide, Wide World"	<i>Miss Wetherell.</i>
"Queechy"	" "
"Woman's Patience"	<i>Emma Jane Worboise.</i>
"Grey and Gold"	" "
"Husbands and Wives"	" "
"The Arundel Motto"	<i>Mary Cecil Hay.</i>
"The Court and the Cottage"	<i>Emma Marshall.</i>
"Coulry Castle"	<i>Agnes Giberne.</i>
"Nellie's Memories"	<i>Rosa Nouchette Carey.</i>
"Barbara Heathcote's Trial"	" "
"Better than Good"	<i>Annie E. Ridley.</i>
"Esther West"	<i>Isa Craig-Knox.</i>

Of the above, "John Halifax, Gentleman," "A Noble Life," "The Heir of Redclyffe," and "The Arundel Motto" afford capital reading for both sexes.

The list of good stories for boys and young men might easily assume undue dimensions, but probably the following will be found to be a fairly representative selection:—

"Eric; or, Little by Little"	<i>Dr. Farrar.</i>
"Julian Home"	" "
"St. Winifred's"	" "
"The Three Homes"	<i>F. T. L. Hope.</i>
"Tom Brown's Schooldays"	<i>Thomas Hughes.</i>
"The Channings"	<i>Mrs. Henry Wood.</i>
"Roland Yorke"	" "
"Westward Ho"	<i>Charles Kingsley.</i>
"The Days of Bruce"	<i>Grace Aguilar.</i>
"The Scottish Chiefs"	<i>Jane Porter.</i>
"Frank Fairleigh"	<i>F. E. Smedley.</i>
"Lewis Arundel; or, The Railroad of Life"	" "
"Treasure Island"	<i>R. L. Stevenson.</i>
"Vice Versa"	<i>F. Anstey.</i>
"The Three Admirals"	<i>W. H. G. Kingston.</i>
"The Three Midshipmen"	" "
"The Gorilla Hunters"	<i>R. M. Ballantyne.</i>
"The Young Buglers"	<i>G. A. Henty.</i>
"Schoolboy Honour"	<i>Rev. H. C. Adams.</i>
"Wood Magic"	<i>Richard Jefferies.</i>

In connection with our "Home Reading Division," we now recapitulate the books already selected, dividing them into groups, and distinguishing with an asterisk those which are especially recommended for abstracts:—

- * Milton's "Paradise Lost."
 - * Tennyson's "In Memoriam."
 - * Tennyson's "Idylls of the King."
-
- Dean Church's "Life of Lord Bacon."
 - * Picton's "Life of Oliver Cromwell."
 - Carlyle's "Life of Schiller."
 - * John Forster's "Life of Goldsmith."
 - Dean Stanley's "Life of Dr. Arnold."
-
- * Farrar's "Early Days of Christianity."
 - Professor Seeley's "Expansion of England."
 - Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic."
 - John Stuart Mill's "Political Economy."
 - Buckland's "Curiosities of Natural History," First Series.
 - * Tyndall's "Sound."
 - Tyndall's "Heat: a Mode of Motion."
 - Carpenter's "Energy in Nature."
-
- * Mackenzie Wallace's "Russia."
 - Lady Brassey's "Voyage of the *Sunbeam*."
-
- Ruskin's "Stones of Venice."
 - Smiles' "Self-Help."
 - Macaulay's "Essays."
 - * Bunyan's "Holy War."
 - * Butler's "Analogy of Religion."
 - Trench's "Study of Words."

As previously announced, books to the value of three guineas (published price) will be awarded for the best and most satisfactory abstract of any two of the above books. It is recommended that the two books be not selected from the same group. Each abstract should give a concise account of the object and plan of the book and of its contents, and should not exceed one printed page of this Magazine in length. All abstracts should be in the hands of the Editor not later than June 1, 1885.

Competitors must be *bonâ fide* members of Reading Clubs, numbering not less than *twelve* members, and must get their eligibility certified by the secretary or acting officer of their club.

It had been intended to give some account of "An Evening with Sir Walter Scott" this month, but the limits of space prevent. Just a word or two, however, must be said about the Prize in our "Company Reading Division."

Books to the value of three guineas (published price) will be awarded for the best set of three programmes for "Variety Readings," similar in character to those published in our December number. The duration of each programme should be ninety minutes, and the time occupied in each individual reading must be given as closely as possible. None of the selections given in the published *programmes* should be included, although any of the *suggested readings* in previous papers may be utilised. Thus, for example, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," by Robert Browning, given in the programme for "Our Children's Evening," is excluded; while "How we brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix," by the same author, mentioned among the verse selections, might form part of a programme.

All programmes must be in the hands of the Editor not later than June 1, 1885. Competitors must be *bonâ fide* members of any existing Reading Club, and must get their eligibility certified by the secretary or other acting officer of their club.

AN EVENING WITH SIR WALTER SCOTT.

(OUR MODEL READING CLUB.—VI.)

MANY and many a pleasant evening's reading may be made up from the works of "the Wizard of the North," and plenty of variety may be found, although, of course, there is more or less of an air of romance in all his writings. One plan—and that a good one—is to take a single book, and to tell its story briefly, interspersed with extracts. These extracts need not necessarily be read by one and the same person. The following will be found very suitable works for this purpose:—"The Talisman," "Ivanhoe," "The Fortunes of Nigel," "Kenilworth," "Woodstock," "Rob Roy"; and among the poems, "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" and "The Lord of the Isles."

Perhaps, however, a miscellaneous selection from the whole of Sir Walter Scott's works may be more generally approved by the members of "Our Model Reading Club," as affording a wider scope for individual tastes. With this end in view, a few suggestions may be useful to those who are not thoroughly acquainted with the author's works.

Taking the poems in due order, the following extracts may be recommended:—

The Death of Musgrave	{ <i>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</i> }	Canto V. stanzas 19-23.
Apostrophe to Scotland	" " " " "	VI. " 1, 2.
Albert Graeme (complete ballad)	" " " " "	VI. " 11, 12.
Lochinvar (complete ballad)	<i>Marmion</i>	" V. " 12.
Roderick Dhu's Summons to the Clans	{ <i>The Lady of the Lake</i> }	" III. " 8-24.
Alice Brand (ballad)	" " " " "	" IV. " 12-15.
Fitz-James and Roderick Dhu	" " " " "	" V. " 12-16.
Allan-a-Dale (song)	<i>Rokeby</i>	" III. " 30.
The Abbot and Bruce	<i>The Lord of the Isles</i>	" II. " 23-32.
The Death of De Boune	" " " " "	" VI. " 14, 15.
The Chase (complete ballad; after the German).	" " " " "	" " " " "
The Erl-King	" " " " "	" " " " "

To attempt in one short paper to give a list of the readable extracts from the prose works would be an impossible task, but taking the books at random, the following will give some idea of the wealth of material available.

In "Old Mortality," the shooting at the popinjay makes a good scene; it is to be found in the early part of Chapter III. In the same book, "A Narrow Escape" is a thrilling episode, telling of Henry Morton's appearance before Claverhouse, his sentence to death, and subsequent reprieve. The reading might commence with this passage from Chapter XIII.—"Henry Morton cast upon Edith one glance, in which reproach was mingled with sorrow," and might end with the Sergeant's speech as he leads Morton away.

In "Guy Mannering" there is the description of the attack by smugglers, told in Julia Mannering's letter (Chapter XXX.), and the humorous scene between the Dominie and Meg Merrilies (Chapter XLVI.).

In "The Antiquary" (Chapter VII.) is the story of "The Rising Tide," and the rescue of Sir Arthur Wardour and his daughter from their perilous position under Halket Head.

The meeting between Sir Kenneth and Saladin in "The Talisman" (Chapter I.) makes an interesting reading; and so does "A Highland Feud" in "The Fair Maid of Perth" (Chapter XXXIV.), where Hal o' the Wynd fights for the Clan Chattan against the Clan Quhele.

In "Woodstock," a good scene may be found in the interrupted duel between Charles Stuart and Colonel Everard (part of Chapter XXVIII.).

In "Kenilworth" (Chapter XV.) is the story of the first meeting of Queen Elizabeth and Walter Raleigh.

"Rob Roy" contains many capital scenes. Among these is the humorous account of Bailie Nicol Jarvie's fight with the Highlander (Chapter XXVIII.), and the story of Rob Roy's escape in Chapter XXXIII.

"How Caleb Balderstone catered for Wolf's Crag" is a good extract from "The Bride of Lammermoor" (Chapters XI., XII., and XIII. compressed for the purpose).

Quentin Durward's mishap when crossing the ford, and subsequent adventures with the King of France, may well be condensed to make an interesting reading ("Quentin Durward," Chapters II. and III.).

In "The Fortunes of Nigel" many readable extracts may be found; amongst others, "Nigel's First Appearance in Alsatia" (Chapter XVII.).

"Peveril of the Peak," "Anne of Geierstein," "The Heart of Midlothian," "Waverley," "The Black Dwarf," and other works, may also be searched for selections.

The following may be useful as a skeleton programme for an evening's entertainment:—

Allan-a-Dale	<i>Marmion</i>	5 minutes.
A Narrow Escape	<i>Old Mortality</i>	15 "
The Chase (ballad)	"	10 "
Bailie Nicol Jarvie's Fight	<i>Rob Roy</i>	15 "
The Abbot and Bruce	<i>The Lord of the Isles</i>	10 "
Sir Kenneth and Saladin	<i>The Talisman</i>	15 "
Lochinvar (ballad)	"	5 "
How Caleb Balderstone catered for Wolf's Crag	{ <i>The Bride of Lammermoor</i> }	15 "
The Erl-King (ballad)	"	5 "
		95 minutes.

Intending competitors for the Prizes offered in connection with "Our Model Reading Club" are reminded that the abstracts and programmes must be in the hands of the Editor not later than June 1, 1885. They should be properly certified by the Secretary or other acting officer of the club, and should be addressed to *The Editor of CASSELL'S FAMILY MAGAZINE, La Belle Sauvage Yard, Ludgate Hill, London.*