

C. Guy Curtis

A good book is the most generous companion. It asks not to monopolize ones time. It stirs thoughts that broaden views. It may dispute convictions but it does not argue with one. And it may be cast aside at will without injury to its feelings.

With such a companion you journey into the interesting places of the earth and commune with interesting characters of the world. You become familiar with the illustrious dead and in imagination feel their heart throbs, their cares and their ambitions. With such a companion you may walk along the mysterious Nile or march with Caesar's legions. You come to know the craft of Hannibal and feel the worth of rugged, fighting Spartan men. You come to know the might of Rome and fight with William, the Conqueror at Hastings- sail the seas with Vikings in their frail but adventurous crafts. March with Genghis Kahn and Tamerlane and view the mountains of human bones left in the wake of their victorious armies. Live in mystic, stolid China amidst the most ancient peoples of the earth. Fight with the feeble force of Cortez against the mighty hords of Montezuma; climb the Andes heights with Pizaro and sail the unknown seas with Columbus, Magellon and Balboa.

With such a companion you may plumb the depths of Hell with Goethe or scale the walls of ancient Troy with the blind Homer. Go with Milton to explore the mysteries of Paradise Lost or explore the pathway of the dead with ancient Egypt's Book of the Dead. Explore the darkest depths of brooding Africa with Livingston and with Stanley. Plumb the depths of nature with Burrows or the beauties and mystifying facts about the world of plants with Burbank.

For days and nights one may explore the hidden thoughts of savage beasts, the vaporings of insipid men or the profound considerations of stalwart souls with that world covering, thought revealing, emotion knowing William Shakespeare.

In the companionship of good books one is not confined to fixed limitations. The earth, the seas, the skies and all the planets become familiar. What other companion is there that can give you so much that is interesting, pleasing and worth while? With them you gain wisdom from the tomb and experience from the dead. Reading with those who have thought well, you think better in your own. Dreaming dreams is but some lost vision of the soul but reading books brings facts, even though it oftimes be in fiction.

All the masterpieces of ancient art; the mighty architecture of Ancient Greece; the curious works of long dead Peruvians on the mountain peaks; the curious ~~works~~ works of Easter's isle; the mighty highways of the Roman men; the pyramids, the Halls of Karnak the singing Memnon- the Collosus of Rhodes and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon- the pile of rocks constructed by Druid's hands, and all the things that one may wish to view and know may be had in the companionship of good books.

With such companion you may converse upon the advance of civilization; the progress of governments and ponder upon the possibilities of life to come. There is no limitation except within your taste. See therefore that your choice of such companions brings you not a simple thrill or romance or of fiction, but mix them well so that better thinking may be contrived. There is a satisfaction in the companionship of such knowledge. Wisdom is born in one, but even wisdom may be enhanced. The imagination has a field as unlimited as is the earth and sky and seas. Each one may roam the pleasant, curious and the interesting places of the earth with such a companion, and be the better for the roaming.