

**SOME OBSERVATIONS ON
BOOKS AND LIBRARIES IN
GENERAL: AND ON "THE SACRED
BOOKS AND EARLY LITERATURE
OF THE EAST" IN PARTICULAR**

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Some Observations on Books and Libraries in General: And on "The Sacred Books and Early literature of the East" in particular by Frank Crane

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FRANK CRANE

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"The Sacred Books and Early Literature
of the East" in Particular

By Dr. Frank Crane
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THE LIBRARY

Every man of taste wants a book.

Every man of taste, and some means, wants a Library, a room of books, a Book temple, a private chapel where he can retreat from the world and hold communion with the imperial past.

Here are his silent counsellors, his friends, each with its priceless wisdom enclosed in its covers, never intruding, waiting to be consulted, ready and willing to impart their garnered wisdom of heaven and earth.

Without a Library the most sumptuous home is coarse and common.

The Library is the touch of culture, the mark of genuine good breeding, the one guaranty of a real aristocracy of spirit.

When you enter the house of the successful man, it is not the gold furniture of his

parlor that impresses you, nor his tinted boudoirs, nor his regal halls and stairways, nor his baronial dining room, nor his expensive paintings and curios; it is his library. That is the touchstone of his quality. That will show you whether he is a cheap money-maker who has hired experts to decorate his chambers, or a superior soul to whom riches mean the expansion of his finer self and the gratification of its nobler wants.

Books are books, whether in pamphlet form or levant. But while it is the contents of the book that count and not its binding and decoration, still there is something profoundly gratifying in a good book worthily made up. The real book-lover not only likes to read his book, but he loves to handle it, to have it in such print and paper as shall appeal to his sense of richness, to look at it as it lies upon his table or stands on his shelf so bound and stamped that it sheds dignity and strength.