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CHOOSING BOOKS: A LECTURE (CLASSIC REPRINT) (HARDBACK)



Forgotten Books, 2018. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Choosing Books: A Lecture When first I went to school, a good many years ago, an older boy told me that Robinson Crusoe was the best book he had ever read. That winter he lent me the volume, and I felt sorely grieved when my father said that the work was mere fiction, that there had never been any real Crusoe or his man Friday. Soon afterward another schoolmate lent me Dana s Two Years Before the Mast, but its truth did not stir me as did the marvellously invented chapters of Defoe. And so my reading went on month by month, year by year. As one of the youngest boys in our class, I listened to what other boys said about books really worth while. And thus, without planning it at all, I began to depend upon better informed folk than myself in choosing my books, and that practice became a habit useful to me ever since. To be sure, my first counsellors in the school-yard varied a good deal in knowledge and in soundness of judgment. I can remember a dozen paltry romances, imitated from Cooper, that swept through our school in a whirlwind of popularity, forerunning the Harkaway series of a later day. And yet, in the main, so sensible was the pilotage I enjoyed, that by the time I was fourteen or so I had read Scott s Guy Mannering and Quentin Durward; Hawthorne s House of the Seven Gables; Cooper s Last of the Mohicans Dickens Oliver Twist and David Copperfield; Thackeray s Henry Esmond and that capital story of whaling adventure, Moby Dick, by Herman Melville. Even in those distant days it was...



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