

Robert Browne's Sons:

Gentlemen: I have had in preparation for some time a series of articles entitled "Fiction and the Fireside".

Their purpose is to define in a familiar and entertaining style the field and function of fiction - showing its ~~scope and~~ healthfulness, its relation to history, its scope as an art, its relations to life, &c.

It is intended to combat, particularly three ideas:

- 1 - That fiction is demoralizing.
~~un-useful.~~
- 2 - That mere amusement is its only legitimate purpose.
- 3 - That the so-called "realistic" fiction is the only true or perfect sort.

The articles are copyrighted and it is the intention to make a book

out of them when complete.

They will be of a length to fill two or three columns of the ledger each and there will be from 20 to 30 of them.

It is intended to be an interesting ~~to~~ entertaining but comprehensive and thorough discussion of a subject which has been picked up by hundreds of writers, but never fairly treated by any. It will be interspersed and illustrated especially by references to modern and current fiction.

Would you like them? They are in your line; will I think attract attention and while constituting a series, will be so arranged that each one will be not only comprehensible but in ~~and~~ of itself entertaining.

I do not go abroad until Fall
and shall use the time to complete
them. They can be begun at a
week's notice any time as I pre-
fer to write with regular demands.