

REFLECTED RAYS.

A fund is being raised at Madrid for the purchase of a warship. The Bishop of Madrid is president of the committee for receiving subscriptions. Good old Christianity! This is how it promotes peace on earth.—[Freethinker.

To love God, to practice self-denial, to overcome desire, to despise wealth, to hate prosperity, to desert wife and children, to live on roots and berries, to repeat prayers, to wear rags, to live in filth and to drive love from the heart—these, for centuries, were the highest and most perfect virtues, and those who practiced them were called saints.—[Ingersoll.

Although the ignorance and crimes of the race have ever fallen most heavily on woman, yet in the general progress of civilization she has had some share. As man became more enlightened she of necessity enjoyed the results; but to no form of popular religion has woman ever been indebted for one pulsation of liberty. Obedience and subjection have been the lessons taught her by all alike.—[Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Priests maintain their false but profitable craft by nursing the sanctified prejudices of the ignorant, whose minds they keep so god-ridden that they cannot expand their ideas beyond their god-limited sphere—the hotbed for the rank growth of every foul weed of moral noisomeness—all weakness, narrowness, and stupid bigotry in the head; bitterness and cankered feeling in the heart. Perversity and narrow-mindedness generally go together. When a person has spent his days in the society of the ignorant and superstitious, he generally becomes false, narrow-minded, suspicious and selfish.—[Bible of Reason.

The clergy agreed to pray for rain last Sunday—the arrant quacks! The rain, however, outran them, and came before they prayed. Rather disconcerting, no doubt; but the prayer-machines are not easily put to the blush. When the great fire occurred in Melbourne, during the bush fires we have had, while the heat was killing the people, and in Queensland and Broken Hill, where the floods are, the holy humbugs were useless. They could not even save their own joss-houses from the wind and the flames; and find it necessary to go around, cap in hand, to entreat gullible people to give them money to rebuild what their god has seen fit to destroy! These are the fellows who are going to get rain for the the land—after the rain has come. Arrant sharpers and barefaced jugglers is what they are.—[Liberator.

As Viewed in England.

The indictment against Spain in Cuba is a terrible one. It seems pretty clear that the Cubans have been butchered, tortured and starved to death wholesale. At least two hundred thousand have perished, more than half of them being helpless women and children. Nothing like it has happened in recent times except in Armenia. This is perceived by the committee of the American senate, whose report contains the following passage: "The fact that Spain is a Christian state does not give her greater warrant to exterminate her subjects than Mohammedan Turkey possessed to extirpate hers." Quite true, gentlemen! The observation is most excellent. Yet over here in England the pulpits don't ring with denunciations of the Spanish atrocities. Oh, dear no. The Spaniards are Christians, and that covers a multitude of sins.

Spain has never been anything else than a butcher outside her own peninsula. She butchered in the Netherlands, butchered in Mexico, butchered in Peru, butchered in the West Indies, butchered everywhere. Wherever she went she carried treachery and cruelty. Her presence has always been a curse, and in the interest of humanity we hope she will soon be driven back upon her own soil, where she may stand a chance of becoming a little more civilized. It is all very well to sneer at the Yankees, as a few (only a few) Englishmen do; but it would be a disgrace to them if they were insensible to the infamies that are being perpetrated almost at their very doors. War is a terrible thing: we hate it, and we hope it will be avoided. But if the Yankees decide that the Spaniard must be cleared out of Cuba, and that they must do it, we feel sure that they will have the sympathy of the overwhelming majority of the people of the mother country. And as England won't stand much Spanish nonsense in the way of interference with her commerce, it is just possible that Uncle Sam and John Bull may find themselves a good deal nearer before the trouble is ended. And why not? They ought to have shaken both hands long ago.

As for Spain, what she has got to do is to multiply schools, establish freedom of thought and speech, put down the lordship of the Catholic church, and give up bullfights; in short, she has got to float into the stream of civilization.

What is at the bottom of Spain's backwardness? Its religion. It is this which weeded out all its finest minds by the Inquisition, and still persecutes Protestants and Freethinkers. It is the church which has kept the people the most pious and the most ignorant in Europe, directing their eyes to heaven instead of on the path of civilization and progress.—[Freethinker (London).

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