

REFLECTED RAYS.

The ghost of Israel's thought has haunted the world too long.—[Ex.]

Considering that "war is hell", it is strange that a Christian should ever feel bound to go to war.—[American Sentinel.]

Occultism is a suitable cover under which those who know nothing are enabled to make the false claim to spiritual perception. It is out of the sphere of demonstration; it eludes all facts, and is the opposite of science.—[Flaming Sword.]

The martyr cannot be dishonored. Every lash inflicted is a tongue of flame; every prison a more illustrious abode; every burned book or house enlightens the world; every suppressed or expurged word reverberates through the earth from side to side.—[Emerson.]

We know the truth of Diderot's words: "It is easier to go mad with the mad than to be wise by one's self." The Freethinker takes this harder part, but the world benefits by it—and never fear, the world, when it understands it, will be grateful to those who thus serve it.—[Holyoake.]

The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst distinguished himself the other day by causing the arrest of a small boy for selling newspapers on the street on Sunday. His vindictiveness failed, however, to give him courage enough to appear against the offender in the police court on Monday morning. Is the religion that stimulates this kind of petty persecution worth preserving at public expense and enforcing by statute law?—[Truthseeker.]

The government is making good progress in blowing up, sinking, and keeping away from our shores the Spanish warships; now let us have something done to get rid of the Spanish ideas which have already invaded the country and apparently with success. The worst thing about Spain is its principles of government; and it is these, and not the Spanish ships, which constitute the chief source of danger to this country. We refer chiefly to Spain's union of religion with the state.—[Sentinel.]

It is a universal induction of science that modification of brain is accompanied by modification of consciousness, and that destruction of brain results in destruction of consciousness. No exception to this law has ever been observed. . . . It follows that, so far as science can speak on the subject, the consciousness persists as long as the organized brain, and no longer. . . . Immortality can have no claim to the consideration of rational beings, unless it means absolute independence of time and causation. All

things that have a beginning must have an end. A phenomenon that is assumed to begin at some given point of time and to continue thenceforth forever is, to the logical mind, and especially to the scientific mind, a palpable absurdity. Therefore, for immortality to be believed in by rational beings, it must be shown to embrace an eternity *a parte ante* as well as *a parte post*. . . . The immortality of science is the eternity of matter and its motions in the production of phenomena.—[Lester F. Ward.]

The archbishop of Paris has had some interesting performances at Notre Dame. On Holy Thursday he publicly washed the feet of twelve poor men. This is considered a demonstration of humility. But it looks absurd, not to say hypocritical, when we read that the dirty feet of those twelve pariahs underwent a preliminary cleansing before they were put under the nose of the pious archbishop. We quite approve his taste in the matter; what we object to is the humbug of the business.—[Freethinker.]

Thoughts and Opinions.

The church says that only dead people can go to heaven. No chance for those who live.

If the voice of the people is the voice of God, the almighty must have things terribly mixed and confused in these modern times.

If we were asked to define the character, present condition and future prospects of Blanco, we would simply cancel the last letter of his name; or take away blanc, and zero is left.

Modern Christians believe that death is a good thing to take them from the earth to some happy hunting ground where there is nothing to do but to sing and to play upon golden harps, and fly about in ether. Yet they shrink from entering the catastrophe, and mourn the departure of friends into bliss.

It occurs to us that a Christian nation is a nation founded on the principles of the Christ. There are a number of so-called Christian nations today, and each one differs from the other in government. Some are republics and some are kingdoms. All have warships to defend themselves against each other. This augurs peace and brotherhood!—[Flaming Sword.]

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