

**REFLECTED RAYS.**

The false shepherds of the church keep the wool pulled over the eyes of the sheep.—[Flaming Sword.

For a nation to love liberty it is sufficient that she knows it; and to be free it is sufficient that she wills it.—[Lafayette.

Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army. If we retrench the wages of the schoolmaster, we must raise those of the recruiting sergeant.—[Everett.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been offered for the site of St. Paul's church in Boston. This represents an accumulation of unpaid taxes belonging to the public.—[Ex.

I am not unacquainted with that fusiform spiral-wound bundle of chopped stems and miscellaneous incombustibles, the cigar, so-called, of the shops, which to draw asks the suction power of a nursing infant Hercules, and to relish the leathery palate of old Silenus. I do not advise you, young man, even if my illustration strikes your fancy, to consecrate the flower of your life to painting the bowl of a pipe, for, let me assure you, the stain of a reverie-breeding narcotic may strike deeper than you think for. I have seen the green leaf of early promise grow brown before its time under such nicotian regimen, and thought the ambered meerscham was dearly bought at the cost of a brain enfeebled and a will enslaved.—[Holmes.

Materialistic Philosophy has lengthened life; it has mitigated pain; it has extinguished diseases; it has increased the fertility of the soil; it has given new securities to the mariner; it has spanned great rivers and estuaries with bridges of form unknown to our fathers; it has guided the thunderbolt innocuously from heaven to earth; it has lighted up the night with the splendor of day; it has extended the range of human vision; it has multiplied the power of the human muscles; it has accelerated motion; it has annihilated distance; it has facilitated intercourse, correspondence, all friendly offices, all despatch of business; it has enabled man to descend to the depths of the sea, to soar into the air, to penetrate securely into the noxious recesses of the earth, to traverse the land in cars that whirl along without horses, and the ocean in ships which run ten knots an hour against the wind. These are but a part of its fruits, and of its first fruits. For it is a philosophy that never rests. Its law is progress. A point which yesterday was invisible is its goal today, and will be its starting-point tomorrow.—[Ma-caulay.

It is a natural law that we cannot make others happy without sharing the happiness ourselves. Neither can we make others miserable without sharing that misery. Blessed are they who furnish pleasure for children and comfort the aged, for they will reach a haven of happiness never dreamed of by the purely selfish.—[Common Sense.

**NEW AND CURIOUS.**

The only artisan buried in Westminster Abbey is George Graham, the instrument-maker, who invented an improved clockwork in the year 1700.

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At the beginning of this century there were practically no water works in this country or Canada, while at present there are nearly 3350 complete works in the two countries, supplying more than that number of towns, of which about 2780 have been built since 1880, and some 1400 in the past six years.

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In the early days of water-works construction in this country, private ownership was the rule. At the opening of the century there were 17 cities with more or less complete works, only one of which was owned by a municipality. But now, of the 3196 complete works in the United States, 1690, or more than half, are owned by the municipalities which they supply.

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A peculiar method of brick-burning has been noted in Korea by M. Henri Chevalier, a French engineer. The brick are first thoroughly burnt, then without cooling are flooded with water, and the fires being kept up several days longer, are finished in an atmosphere of superheated steam. The brick are blue in color and very hard. They have a crushing strength of 750 tons per square foot and are practically unaffected by frost, but how much of their fine quality depends upon the singular burning process is not clear.

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A shellfish known as the pianna in the Mediterranean has the curious power of spinning a viscid silk, which is made in Sicily into a regular fabric. The silk is spun by the shellfish in the first place for the purpose of attaching itself to the rocks. It is able to guide the delicate filaments to the proper place and then glue them fast, and if they are cut away it can reproduce them. The material when gathered—which is done at low tide—is washed in soap and water, dried and straightened, one pound of the coarse filament yielding three ounces of the fine thread, which, when spun, is of a lovely burnished golden-brown color.

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