

Current Thought.

THE PEACE OF GOD.

The salutation of the Orient is, "Peace Be Unto You," and the response is, "To You Also Be Peace." This was the song of the angels at Bethlehem, and this was the benediction of our Lord in His intercessory prayer and at His first interview with them after the resurrection. It is the initial blessing of the Christian life, and what a benediction it is! The Peace of God ever brooding over the soul and pervading the whole being! The soul was once storm-tossed and tempest-

the soul. For the current of the entire being was reversed, the polarity of the soul was changed. God became the centre of the thoughts, to whom they ever turned instinctively as the needle to the North. And having in God the unchanging good, the spirit sought no other good below.

Says St. Augustine, in one of his beautiful meditations, "O God, thou madest man for thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find repose in thee;" and the Saviour Himself says, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but in me ye shall have peace." And this peace is one which the world cannot give nor take away, a peace that passeth all understanding, that keepeth the heart and the mind, the affections and the intellect, with the power of an everlasting life.

THOMAS HUGHES.

"It seems fairly questionable," says *Harpers' Weekly*, from which we reproduce this cut, "whether there is any Englishman who is quite so much to blame for the inveterate propensity of large numbers of Americans to think kindly of the British as Thomas Hughes, who died last week. 'Tom Brown's School-Days' was first published in 1856. It very promptly took rank as about the best book a-going for boys. It had two great merits as a boy's book—the boys liked it, and it was considered to be good for them. In knowing Tom Brown they have become familiar with a certain type of English manhood, and have liked and respected it, and it has helped to develop in them a cordial feeling toward the nation of which that type of manhood is characteristic.

"Thomas Hughes was one of the early apostles of muscular Christianity, and that worthy cause owes much to his devotion to it. He was an able man, a good writer, a competent lawyer, but his influence and importance and true success in the world seem to have been out of all proportion to his gifts. Nobody thinks of him as a great man, but somehow he seems to have done a great man's work. One associates him with Thomas Arnold, Maurice, Kingsley and Dean Stanley, all good men to know and all well known.

"He was born in 1823, went to Rugby in 1833, took his degree at Oxford in



THOMAS HUGHES.

driven, agitated by doubts and fears, and stirred to its lowest depths by gusts of passion and temptation. It was shaken to its centre with fearful questionings, the fountains of the great deep of the heart were broken up, the storm of the wrath of God was bursting upon it, and all his waves and billows went over the head. Then the cry of penitence and utter faith burst forth. Instantly a mighty miracle was wrought. Christ spoke the mystic words, "Peace, be still," and immediately there was a great calm. Every warring passion was lulled to rest, and a halcyon peace reigned in