

what a great blessing such a revelation and such "spirits" would be to mankind! We suggest to our Spiritual friend of the *Banner* the deliberate consideration of this idea, to the end that "spirits" may be as useful as possible.)

Yellow fever seems to prevail only in certain localities—the West Indies, Venezuela, New Grenada, Mexico, and the southern part of the United States. We hardly hear of it elsewhere, except, perhaps, some part of Africa. It belongs to tropical climates, is almost exclusively a disease of cities, and usually disappears after the first frost in autumn. Colored people are seldom attacked by it, nor are butchers, painters, and others who work in the midst of foul odors; but cooks, blacksmiths, and persons working near a fire, seldom escape an attack. These are curious facts, but not one of them are so important as this: that the first outbreak of yellow fever never takes place in a city where due regard has been paid to cleanliness and good ventilation. The fever may spread—though it rarely does so—to a clean city, but its birthplace is in filth. This teaches the useful lesson that any city may avoid being the means of starting the pestilence on its round of death, and increases the responsibility of those cities which neglect the proper precautions.

The best theory of the cause of the disease is that it is the development of a living organism, which has yet escaped detection by the microscope. It is supposed that the germ, the egg, or the seed, of this organism is present in the water or the soil of places in the infected territory, and that it is developed by the combined effect of decomposing filth and heat, after which it attacks human beings and multiplies in them.—*Boston Investigator*.

CASKET OF GEMS.

A smile costs the giver nothing, yet it is beyond price to the erring and repentant, the sad and cheerless, the lost and forsaken. It disarms malice, subdues temper, turns enmity to love, revenge to kindness, and paves the darkest paths with gems of sunlight.

For ages, a deadly conflict has been waged between a few brave men and women of thought and genius on one side, and the great, ignorant religious mass on the other. This is the war between Science and Faith. The few have appealed to reason to honor, to law, to freedom, to the known, and to happiness here in this world. The many have appealed to prejudice, to fear, to miracle, to slavery, to the unknown, and to misery hereafter. The few have said, "Think!" The many have said, "Believe!"—*Col. Ingersoll*.

There is no trifling with Nature; it is always in the right, and the faults and errors fall to our share. It defies incompetency, but reveals its secrets to the competent, the truthful and the pure.—*Goethe*.

Give me the storm and tempest of thought and action, rather than the dead calm of ignorance and faith! Banish me from Eden if you will; but first let me eat of the tree of knowledge!—*Ingersoll*.

The ignorant and unthinking have no idea beyond the present, the now and to day: so they say, "Eat, drink, and be merry," but as we trace the effect of moral and intellectual culture upon the mind of the individual and of the race, we perceive a gradual evolution of the grander and higher nature which makes provision for the future, which gathers and hoards up sustenance for the subsequent needs of body and mind: which looks forward to the future welfare and happiness not only of self, but of the family and of the whole coming race, and builds and plans in consideration thereof. These wider and broader views increase and grow in proportion as we evolve from the plane of a lower into that of a higher civilization.—*Mrs. E. D. Stenker*.

Be intolerant of nothing but intolerance.

It is with us a matter of regret that the people are yet so unadvanced, that the clergy are permitted to divert many of our insti-

tutions of learning from their true and legitimate objects, making them mere theological mills from which the students, after going through the usual routine, come out, not fully educated men with broad, cosmopolitan views, but men, sectarians and bigots, dwarfed in mind, and with distorted and false views of scientific, philosophical and religious subjects.—*B. F. Underwood*.

Truth, considered in itself, and in the effects natural to it, may be conceived as a gentle spring or water source, warm from the genial earth, and breathing up into the snow-drift that is piled over and around its outlet. It turns the obstacle into its own form and character, and as it makes its way, increases its stream, and should it be arrested in its course by a chilling season, it suffers delay, not loss, and waits only for a change in the wind, to awaken and again roll onwards.—*Coleridge*.

As for our miseducation, make not bad worse; waste not the time, yet ours, in trampling on thistles, because they have yielded us no figs. Here are books and we have brains to read them; here is a whole earth and a whole heaven and we have eyes to look on them.—*Carlyle*.

It were not perfect hell, if any hope could lodge in it.—*Bishop Pearson, on the Creed*.

[Truly spoken, oh most learned bishop!]

He who can think dispassionately and deeply as I do, is great as I am; none other. But his opinions are at freedom to diverge from mine, as mine are from his; and indeed on recollection, I never loved those most who thought with me, but those rather who deemed my sentiments worth discussion, and who corrected me with frankness and affability.—*Landor's Imaginary Conversations*.

In the darkest hour through which a human soul can pass, whatever else is doubtful, this at least is certain: if there be no God and no future state, yet, even then, it is better to be generous than selfish; better to be brave than to be a coward.—*F. W. Robertson*.

No soul is desolate as long as there is a human being for whom it can feel trust and reverence.—*George Eliot's Romola*.

The simple believeth every word, but the prudent man looketh well to his going.—*Solomon*.

Religion in Italy has no necessary connection with any one virtue. The most atrocious villain may be rigidly devout, and, without any shock to established faith, confess himself to be so.—*Shelley*.

Dante's assertion that the majority of mankind are born "only to manure the earth," and Carlyle's that England contains so many millions of inhabitants, "mostly fools," are not very flattering to our vanity, but they nevertheless represent one side of a very important truism.

The first exchange to be made between man is an exchange of good sentiments and of good offices.—*Edmund About*.

Colonel Ingersoll thinks that it is too bad to make so much fuss about original sin while so much copy remains.—*Ghosts*.

"All for Christ" is a very good motto for Y. M. C. A.'s, but, to bring out the full truth, they should add, "except a good deal for ourselves."

He who speaks most of himself is the greatest liar.—*Chinese Proverb*.

Evolution is slow, continuous, and imperceptible. What intelligence has a child ere it is born, or immediately after birth? It has a capacity for intelligence, but the mind is perfectly blank: yet intelligence is evolved by its circumstances and surroundings. There is no apparent life or intelligence in a seed or an