

neither indifferent to life's sweet and pleasant things, nor, while hankering for their possession, did he repress his noble rage and freeze the genial currents of his soul. His was "an undisguised enjoyment of earthly comforts"; a happy confidence in the excellence and glory of our present life; a persuasion, as one has said, that "if God made us, then he also meant us," and he held to these things so earnestly, so pleasantly, so cheerily, that he could not help communicating them to everything he wrote. They pervade his books and poems like a most subtle essence, and his readers took them in with every breath. Many entered into his labors, and some no doubt, did more than he to save what was best in the Puritan conscience while softening what was worst in the Puritan temper and what was most terrible in the Puritan theology. But it does not appear that any one else did so much as Dr. Holmes to change the social temper of New England, to make it less harsh and joyless, and to make easy for his fellow-countrymen the transition from the old thing to the new. And it may be that there was the secret, in good part, of that great and steadily increasing affection which went out to him in the later lustrums of his life. It was recognized, or felt with dim half-consciousness, that here was one who had made life better worth the living, who removed the interdict on simple happiness and pure delight, who had taken an intolerable burden from the heart and bade it swell with gladness in the good world and the good God. Whatever the secret, it is certain that no man among us was more widely loved, or will be more sincerely mourned.

STANDARD YARD AND POUND.—Sealed in the walls of Parliament and opened every 20 years.—The originals of our yard measure and pound weight—otherwise the British standard of weights and measures—are sealed or walled up in the House of Parliament at London. The cavity in which these precious standards are preserved somewhat resembles a tomb, and can be opened only by tearing away the wall. The two articles which are therein so safely cased are both of metal. The yard measure is of bronze, in the shape of a bar, 38 inches in length, 36 sections, or one yard, having been marked off upon it with some finely scaled instrument. The weight standard is a cube of platinum, weighing exactly 16 ounces. Weighty as it is, it is scarcely more than an inch in extent on either side, and, if sold for the metal there is in it, would bring nearly \$200.

Once every twenty years the walls inclosing these standards are torn away for the purpose of removing the two pieces of