

"I have made only a nosegay of culled flowers, and have brought nothing of my own but the string that ties them."

Montaigne.

No effort has been made to arrange the following excerpts in chronological order, but rather to group kindred subjects as treated by authors of separate nationalities.

Territorial changes of great consequence have, of course, taken place since most of the selected articles were written, and naturally no attempt has been made to correct the quoted statistics so that they should accord with the record of the present day.*

It must be borne in mind history was not being compiled. I have been simply "a snapper up of unconsidered trifles."

L. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *October, 1883.*

* "The colonies and dependencies of Great Britain embrace about one-seventh of the land surface of the globe and nearly one-fourth of its population. The total area is estimated at 7,647,000 English square miles, or more than sixty times the extent of the United Kingdom. Of this vast dominion 3,000,000 square miles are in America, 500,000 in Africa, 1,000,000 in Asia, and more than 2,000,000 in Australia. April 4, 1881, the total population of the United Kingdom was 35,262,762, and of the colonies about 270,000,000."—*Statesman's Year Book, 1883.*