

GLIMMERINGS FROM THE
WHITE CITY.

For YOUNG FRIENDS' REVIEW.

"There is nothing new under the sun" is an old saying, and, in the main, a true one; and it should take away all egotism to know that our brightest and most cherished ideas may have been unconsciously borrowed, and have no doubt been many times expressed. But when we pass to the material world we find much that was apparently unknown until within the last half century; or, if known ages ago, all traces of that knowledge have passed away. I refer especially to electricity, and to the various uses made of that wonderful force in nature, often so destructive to life and property, and yet when properly handled made to become the servant of man. While electricity itself is as old as time, or even older for aught we know, yet the usefulness of this great natural force, and the knowledge to control it, has come to be understood within a comparatively short space of time, and we know not the extent to which its usefulness may be carried. If Benjamin Franklin could have fallen asleep, as the famous Rip Van Winkle is said to have done, and then had awakened in the Electricity Building at the World's Fair, to see the illuminations and the great variety of uses made of the mystery which he endeavored to draw from the clouds, the nature of which was at that time so little understood, how great would have been his wonder and admiration.

Lightning was and is still held in superstitious dread by many. Coming, as it sometimes does, so suddenly and unexpectedly, and with such fatal results, it has been regarded as the especial judgment of God, and therefore not to be lightly spoken of or tampered with. We who have never made a study of this science realize but faintly the extent to which this natural agent enters into our daily lives and

being. We see the result of its silent workings in the beautiful light produced, which turns darkness into day, and we realize something of the vastness of its power, when we see machinery set in motion by it with a force far exceeding that of steam.

The Electricity Building at the Fair furnished one of the most interesting features, and gave great opportunity for study, and the various uses made of electricity went far toward making the Fair a success. Indeed, we wonder if it could have been a success without it. The beautiful illuminations and the fountains were sights never to be forgotten. The search lights so useful in the light houses, to throw their far reaching rays over the stormy sea, when thrown upon the statuary on the high buildings, made them appear as though suspended in the air, and on dark or murky nights made a broad path of light, reminding one of the picture of the New Jerusalem, where the light that shown from heaven to earth made a path by which angels might ascend and descend. I know I am liable to be censured for expressing such thoughts, and I will only say, in self-defence, that I love to think in this way, and it can do me no harm if I make the spiritual application, and it affords me a pleasure that cannot be attained by those who never enter into this beautiful world of imagination. But to return to my theme. When we think of the White City on the shore of the lovely lake, it seems so like a dream, and we wish it could have remained just as it was for another year, that we might see it all again. It was too grandly beautiful to pass away so soon. I was reminded of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp, for there seemed to be nothing under the sun or in the mind of man to invent that was not there reproduced. One had but to wish to see anything and lo! it was before you.

While we were made to realize the greatness of man's intellect we were taught the transitory nature of all the