

Teredo Navales—in English, the naval wood worm—when a brilliant thought suddenly occurred to him. He saw that this creature bored its way into the piece of wood upon which it was operating, by means of a very extraordinary mechanical apparatus. Looking at the animal attentively through a microscope he found that it was covered in front with a pair of valvular shells; that with its foot as a purchase, it communicated a rotary motion and a forward impulse to the valves which, acting upon the wood like a gimlet, penetrated its substance; and that as the particles of wood were loosened,

they passed through a fissure in the foot and thence through the body of the borer to its mouth, where they were expelled. "Here," said Brunel, to himself, "is the sort of thing I want. Can I reproduce it in an artificial form?" He forthwith set to work, and the final result of his labours, after many failures, was the famous boring shield, with which the Thames tunnel was excavated. This story was told by Brunel himself, and there is no reason to doubt its truth. The keen observer can draw useful lesson from the humblest of the works of God.—*New York Ledger*.

PUBLIC OPINION.

THE GOLDEN CALF.—There is undoubtedly too much vulgar consideration of the power of wealth. In America, particularly in the United States, the great millionaires attract more attention than the great men in statesmanship, science, literature and art. We say nothing as to the quality of such attention, referring merely to its amount. In Talleyrand's *Memoirs*, just published, there is a remark to this effect, that the love of money was great in America when he visited it, and the admiration for moneyed men was often coarsely expressed. Whereupon the *New York Christian Advocate* remarks: "Is it any better now? What statesman, philanthropist or scholar would attract so much attention as Jay Gould?"—*The Christian Guardian*.

PURPOSES AND METHODS OF READING.—So many men have become eminent notwithstanding the apparent intellectual poverty of their surroundings that it is interesting to en-

quire whether scarcity of books is such an evil as it appears to be to those who are accustomed to have large libraries at their command. A very little reflection serves to show that it is not the amount that a man reads so much as the depth of his reading that counts toward his intellectual development. It follows that one who is really studious may gather from a few good books more than another from a whole library. The boy with literary tastes restricted to a few good books, reading them at some sacrifice and obliged to study them closely because he has nothing else to turn to, becomes strong mentally. He has not merely read the books, he has assimilated the thoughts he has found in them; they have become a part of his mentality. It is for this reason that men who have apparently had few opportunities for mental culture sometimes surprise the world by their intellectual power if not by their learning. The lesson to those who have many books and many sources of study is not hard to