

we will study the Classics, and always the Classics, and will turn away with a smile and a sigh from those who absurdly oppose their insignificant *ipse dixit* to the accumulated authority of two thousand years.

"Old wood to burn, old wine to drink,
Old friends to trust, old books to read "

is a maxim as true as it is ancient. Those who have read in the old books of the Classics have found them more satisfying than the new books of the French and German; those who have tasted the vintage of Latium and

Chios find the cup of science less exquisite in its aroma, less potent in its stimulus.

And while the true Classic will cheerfully grant the worth of many a subject of thought, mathematical, scientific or literary, besides his own, yet, when invited to abandon the time-tested wisdom of the ancients for the pretentious learning of the moderns, he will make an old adage serve his turn as he replies, "No man having drunk old wine straightway desireth new; for he saith, 'The old is better.'"—*Colorado College*.

THE IMPERIAL IDEA.

By MR. LECKY.

(Continued from last issue.)

IT has been suggested to me that I should on the present occasion say something about the methods by which this great Empire was built up, but it is obvious that in a short address like the present it is only possible to touch on so large a subject in the most superficial manner. Much is due to our insular position and our command of the sea which gave Englishmen, in the competition of nations, a peculiar power both of conquering and holding distant dependencies. Being precluded, perhaps quite as much by their position as by their desire, from throwing themselves, like most Continental nations, into a long course of European aggression, they have largely employed their redundant energies in exploring, conquering, civilizing, and governing distant and half-savage lands. They have found, like all other nations, that an empire planted amid the shifting sand of half-civilized and anarchical races is compelled for its own secur-

ity, and as a mere matter of policy, to extend its borders. The chapter of accidents—which has played a larger part in most human affairs than many very philosophical inquirers are inclined to admit—has counted for something. But, in addition to these things, there are certain general characteristics of English policy which have contributed very largely to the success of the Empire. It has been the habit of most nations to regulate colonial government in all their details according to the best metropolitan ideas, and to surround them with a network of restrictions. England has in general pursued a different course. Partly on system, but partly also, I think, from neglect, she has always allowed an unusual latitude to local knowledge and to local wishes. She has endeavoured to secure wherever her power extends life and property, and contract and personal freedom, in these latter days, religious liberty; but for the rest she has meddled