

GREAT
FROM
MASTER
MINDS
THOUGHTS



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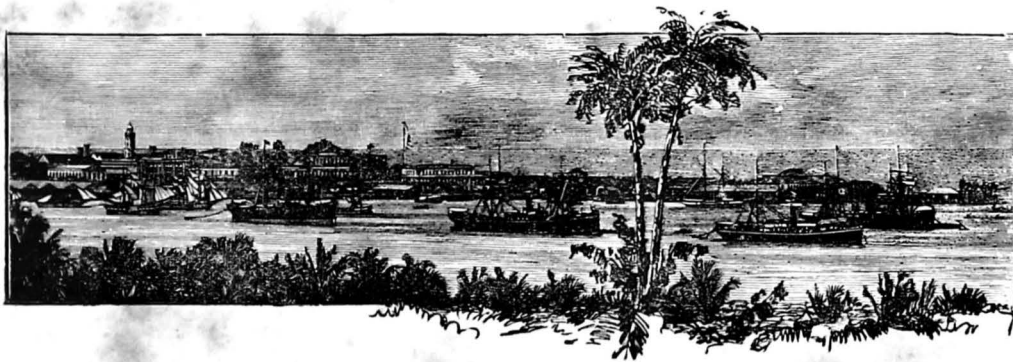
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GREAT THOUGHTS

FROM

MASTER MINDS.

Here behold the lowly portal,
Of a palace passing fair;
Tenanted by forms immortal,
And by fancies rich and rare.
Enter in and share its treasures,
Grand ideals and lasting pleasures.

THE EDITOR.

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PREFACE TO VOL. XXVI.



What is more glorious than a noble thought ?
What is more blessed ? In that thought to dwell ;
To build your bower within it ; scoop a cell ;
Inlay with precious ores a secret grot,
A hermit's place of rest : to wander not,
But lean in peace above its caverned well,
Yielding to that poor runnel's murmuring spell,
Or sound of sighing forests heard remote.

AUBREY DE VERE.



IN a passage well worth pondering, Dean Church has said :—
“ To know what great minds have spoken—to feel elevated
by being in their presence and in sympathy with them—to
put our footsteps into their tracts of thought—to see true and
deep things said in the most perfect and most living words—
to feel the mind awakening, expanding, glowing, gathering light and
enthusiasm and strength, from contact with the power and insight of
minds greater than itself—to understand the opening of the eyes, and
the unlocking of the heart and its dim secrets, as new ideas rise above
the horizon and open before them—and still more, not merely to receive, but to
create ; not merely to be listener and disciple, but to be conscious of being a
master and a teacher—this carries with it a charm which, as we know, has often
been able to make other pursuits tame and other glories pale.”

It is the conviction of the truth of these words which lends us real satisfaction as we place in the hands of our readers our twenty-sixth volume. Of a former volume the “ British Weekly ” said :—“ We give a hearty welcome to the new volume of this admirable periodical, which is fully up to the level of those which have preceded it. GREAT THOUGHTS, it should be known by this time, is not a mere collection of snippets. It is conducted with much spirit and liberality, and

contains many articles by the most distinguished writers of the day. We cordially wish for it, ever-increasing prosperity. It occupies a field of its own, and that with distinguished ability."

Higher praise than this we do not seek, and we shall still endeavour to deserve it from the hands of our generous critics. All will admit that in the effort to bring culture, in the form of the best which has been said and written, to the doors of the people, we are following the lines of that great social movement which is one of the finest and most hopeful features of our time. The appreciation of the true and the beautiful makes men "lovers and equals," and these things have been laid up for humanity from the foundations of the world. We long to realise, as far as it is possible, Ibsen's idea of "every man a nobleman," and this not by those adventitious aids which spring merely from the possession of money; but from a fellowship in those higher things which come to men like the vision of morning upon the hills, or the pomp of the midnight sky when crowded with the glory of a thousand stars. "Really to enjoy a good book," says the author of "Obiter Dicta," "to delight in it, never to weary of it, is to own a noble estate, the revenues of which can never be reduced, which need never stand untenanted, which no Chancellor of the Exchequer, however hard up, no social reformer, however feloniously inclined, can tax or destroy."

If any man should discover and possess such an estate in this volume he will thereby enrich and delight, not only himself, but also his faithful and obedient friend,

THE EDITOR.

