

SOBER THOUGHTS ON STAPLE THEMES

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Sober Thoughts on Staple Themes by Richard Randolph

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RICHARD RANDOLPH

**SOBER THOUGHTS
ON STAPLE THEMES**

U. S. Lit. Press Writers' Office

SOBER THOUGHTS

ON

STAPLE THEMES.

[REVISED EDITION.]

BY

RICHARD RANDOLPH,

AUTHOR OF "WINDFALLS," ETC.

"I simply state these propositions; I am not going to defend them. If they cannot defend themselves by the light which they throw on the anticipations and difficulties of the human spirit, by the hint of deliverance which they offer it, by the horrible dreams which they scatter, my arguments would be worth nothing."—F. D. MAURICK.

PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY LONGSTRETH,
740 SANSON STREET.

1889. 62

TO FAITHFUL WORKERS,

IN THE HOPE THAT, BENEATH THE TISSUE OF STUDIED WORDS
AND SENTENCES, THEY WILL FIND AN ESSENTIALLY UN-
PREMEDITATED LABOR OF LOVE, WITH RESULTS
OF THOUGHT WORTHY OF CANDID
CRITICISM IF NOT OF PRAC-
TICAL ADOPTION,

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED.

SOBER THOUGHTS.

"THERE IS A SPIRITUAL BODY."

Oh, give me substance! is the cry
Methinks I hear, or see thee sigh,
Amused no more by idle toys,
Nor mocked with visionary joys.

The scenes which crowd thy mind's area,
Yield not the coveted idea
Of good triumphant o'er the grave,
And fitting for a soul to crave.

The senses, as the gates of mind,
The crumbling walls leave not behind;
And he who loiters at the gate
Must share the base partition's fate.

Partition-walls our bodies are,
The flow of Life Divine to bar,
Except we keep the sense-gates clear
For passage of the stream sincere.

The dome above rests not on them,
But on that Man of Bethlehem,
Whose body is the Christian's meat,
Whose soul sits on the mercy-seat.

Turn inward then thy spirit's eye,
And worship toward that inner sky
If thou wouldst gather light and strength
To range the temple's breadth and length!

The wonders of the holy church
Shall bountifully bless his search,
Whose cares of age or hopes of youth
Regard the Majesty of Truth.

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