

NEIGHBORHOOD TALKS.

One way of helping to crush out the war spirit," said Emily, "is to begin in the schools and make an entire change in the study of history. A historian who wished to help on the progress of christianity and of civilization, might be supposed to reason in this way: It is important that our children know something of early times; as for instance, what races inhabited the earth at such and such periods, and for what the different races were distinguished, and what each added to the common stock of knowledge and happiness. As for the everlasting wars of past times with their accompanying cruelties, trickeries and miseries, we will pass lightly over those. We prefer that such subjects should not be brought before the minds of young people.

The world has advanced. We have nobler ideas now as to what constitutes true honor, true courage, true glory. It is absurd, therefore, to make our children familiar with all those scenes of violence.

Let us educate them in accordance with the spirit of the times—of these modern, civilized, christian times—rather than of those ancient, unenlightened pagan times. We will write histories, not of the world's battles, but of its progress. We will begin at the very earliest days and describe, as we advance, the modes of life of the different nations. We will speak of their their social and domestic habits; their industries; their inventions their discoveries; their literature; their laws and method of government; of their progress in art, science, agriculture, commerce; manufactures; of their poets, orators, painters, sculptors, architects, and of the most remarkable productions of these.

"And of their philosophers," I suggested.

"Certainly," she answered, "of their philosophers and religious teachers, giving some general ideas of their systems of philosophy and religion."

"And for illustrations to our new History book," said Miss Fullerton, "instead of pictures of men thrusting swords into each other, we will have engravings of the fine old statues, paintings, and temples."

"Which would tend to elevate and refine," said I; "as do the others to brutalize and corrupt."

"It is much better," said Miss Fullerton, "to know what men have thought and what men have wrought than how men have fought."

"Certainly it is," said the doctor. "In relating the World's history, why stick so closely to paths marked out by the long and bloody battle-train, when so many peaceful paths lie open to us? It is like forsaking pleasant traveling for a desolate wilderness, where you have to find your way by dead men's bones!"

"I fall in with all this," said Elmar, "But you can't leave out war all together. How are you going to account for the nations shifting about first one getting the upper-hand then the other?"

"Explain briefly," said Emily, "that this or that nation got the upper-hand by fighting for it. There would be no need of going into the details of the matter."

"But our war histories," said Cousin Ruth, "give noble accounts of bravery and honor and self-sacrifice. Must all these moral lessons be lost?"

"Not necessarily," said Emily, "We can relate the best of the stories, and then show that

in these days of more advanced civilization the same noble traits (as has been said before) are developed, but in other directions."

"I'm sure you find this idea in the preachings and teachings even of these times," said Betty Prince. "We are continually being told that the person who stands up for the right and faces a frowning world, is more to be admired than the warrior who faces an enemy!"

"O, listen!" cried Emily. "I have a bright thought. Instead of 'The Child's First Book of History,' let us have 'The Child's First Book of Biography.' Why, Nature herself points out the way. All children like stories. Make use of this liking. Let libraries and newspapers be searched for stories illustrating the grand principles of integrity, honor, courage, generosity, self-sacrifice, mercy, and loving kindness; and let the children feed on these rather than on the statistics and repulsive incidents of battles. The character of the mind, like that of the body, depends greatly upon its food. As a child thinketh, so is he. What an advantage we shall gain over the enemy—calling badness the enemy—by taking these very early measures on the side of goodness. While the young things are in their most impressible state, while the mind is tender, while character is yet unformed, we will move in with our noble band of principles and preoccupy the ground." The good effects of such an exchange would be incalculable," said the doctor, "for moral results are not easy to estimate. There would be all the difference between elevating influences and depraving ones to consider."

"We need not trouble ourselves to consider them," said Emily, "such an exchange will not take place for a long, long, very long time.

In some respects we are still barbarians."

"Yes," said Miss Betty. "Our literature shows that we still find a charm in noise and show, in glitter and parade, and clang and bang, and crash and flash, in glistening steel and the roar of artillery. If it were otherwise, why do our poets, who are supposed to represent the high-water mark of refinement among us, choose these brazen themes for their poems? Why do the public enjoy the reading of those poems, and schoolboys delight to pronounce their sonorous numbers? Here are some war verses which Miss Fullerton says were spoken in school today by one of her scholars. I will only give you a few lines.

"Then the terrific fight began;
Onward fresh troops of stalwart men.

Cannon thundered in the tent air;
Muskets poured out incessant glare;
Saber clashed saber every where.

Swiftly the currents foam and swell,
The sky seems a Plutonian bell,
Loud tolling the sad funeral knell
Of the dead soldier, stained and wan.

At the battle of Inkerman

On neighing steeds, strong, fierce, and fleet
Through smoke and fire and leaden steel
Like angry waves the squadrons meet
At the battle of Inkerman.

There is more of the same kind. How is it that poets find such scenes attractive and seek to make them attractive?"

"And how is the war spirit to be quenched," when every generation of schoolboys must learn to repeat the 'Charge of the Light Brigade'.

MYSTIC GROVE MEETING.

A LITTLE OF WHAT WAS SAID.

President's Address.—"This is the twentieth anniversary of our society and we are again called together to try and rule out this custom of killing our brother men—which is called war, the greatest scourge that ever mankind could invent. It commenced with the heathens who killed and ate each other, and it has now worked into a custom where ambitious and crafty men for the love of money and power will kill their brethren and destroy their property without mercy. Since people have become enlightened after the coming of Christ, we feel it our religious duty to hold these meetings to try and bring about a new state of things that was prophesied of at the coming of Christ. We believe it good to have these meetings where we may all speak our views on these subjects and devise the best means to bring about reforms.

Mrs. Moore a member of the Catholic Church, an eloquent peace orator, spoke in the strongest terms against war and great war generals who have monuments erected to their memories, while the poor soldiers who died and gave them honor and glory are forgotten. She also referred to the immense standing armies of Europe as great bullies, nearly equal in strength, a little afraid to attack each other but only waiting a favorable opportunity to break out into open war and spread desolation and death.

Rev. O. D. Sherman—"There are many offices in this country for turning men into soldiers, but where are the offices to turn soldiers back into men."

Rev. Powell: There is more power in peace than in all the implements of war in the world.

"If a man smite you on one cheek turn unto him the other also." I believe in this. For if a man slap me in the face and I slap him back, I should in all probability receive another slap and perhaps a dozen, but if when he strikes me I say, 'my friend, what do you mean,' and exercise over him the power of peace, his arm would drop and we could thus carry out this spiritual passage to advantage to ourselves and assailants. I believe the peace cause will finally triumph and all nations and people will come to that condition when swords shall be beaten into implements of agriculture."

Pres. Love plead for disarmament: said that the great forts and naval vessels were a stigma on our civilization. We appropriate \$100,000 in this state (Conn.) for military purposes, while not a cent is given by our government for preventing war, the best thing to do in times of peace. You say amen to the man who takes his life in his hand and goes to defend his country. But does he do this?

He goes to kill for his country. We condemn all resort to arms."

Mrs. I. W. Benham thought "if there had been no West Point there would have been no Rebellion, as many of the officers who were educated there, were foremost in the endeavor to destroy the Union. She condemned our military institutions in the strongest terms."

Amanda Deyo made an eloquent appeal to the women to work for peace. She asked for a vote of all the ladies who favored the policy of peace societies they responded unanimously for arbitration.

G. W. POWELL, ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Murder within the law is carried out with the most horrible premeditation and preparation." No two of us are alike. We inherit different natures, and what shall we do with those degraded people who, from force of circumstances, have become murderers? Some of you might say hang them, but do you wish to witness an execution? What did Christ say when near unto death and the Jewish mob were around him thirsting for his blood, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

It was my misfortune to be the spiritual adviser of that little woman in Herkimer county who paid the penalty of the murder of her husband on the 8th of February last. I would not be present at the terrible scene, but I led the unfortunate woman from her cell to the scaffold; the halter touched my hair when placed round her neck; I left the scaffold fifteen minutes; I heard her scream when the black cap was drawn, and when I returned to take care of the body I found the little woman hanging from the scaffold and a lot of drunken, gibbering people feeling her pulse. And I here reiterate the statement for which I have been ridiculed, that this woman shot her husband in self-defense and the murder was committed by others whose lips were sealed.

Mrs. Moore said: "People always say of reforms, 'You can never carry these things.' But the progress of reforms in the past proves this to be false.

All the instruments of torture in civilized lands are abandoned, and many of them are now in museums on exhibition. So it will be with instruments of warfare. When the Goddess of Liberty which Bartholdi fashioned from the face of his mother, they forgot she was made to represent a woman, and no woman was present. I tell you the peace cause and the temperance cause can never succeed until woman receives the ballot."

The meeting was closed by A. H. Love, whose antirring efforts have done so much to help the progress of the peace cause.

An immense number of people [5000] were present and the best of order prevailed.

One orator on Decoration day chose for his theme The Vocation of the Grand Army of the Republic. He spoke of Gen. Grant's efforts to promote peace after 1866: and then continued:

Now what I advocate is that the organization in which the immense majority of the survivors of the federal army are associated, should make a definite business of conquest through peace. That the dignity and strength of your mighty society be used to tone up and to regulate the foreign policy of our government, so that causes of war may be foreseen, manfully met, fairly adjusted, and wisely honorably passed.

The example this would furnish to other nations would be most worthy; and while it would be a novel sight—soldiers manœuvring to avoid war—it would be no less powerful in helping all the world on toward that predicted day when 'Nations shall not learn war any more.' McMurdin's Report.