

ARTICLE.

No.35, Vol. 10.

SUBJECT.

Warfare, Secular and Christian,
Past and Future.

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Writings, Secular and Christian.

Part and Picture.

WARFARE SECULAR AND CHRISTIAN-
PAST AND FUTURE.

Warfare in its broadest sense enters into everything physical, mental and spiritual. There is and ever will be, in this world, a perpetual struggle for life and what sustains life. The innumerable problems, presenting themselves for the mind's solution, began with us at creation and cannot cease; and from the soul's birth until it soars into Heavenly Spheres it has to seek for, and be clad in, an armor fitted for warfare, while it meets and overcomes its foes,- foes to its innocence, to its progress, and to its ultimate attainment.

1. There are three things more than anything else we can conceive of, that, in our country, will affect its "warfare of the future." These are: The propelling sentiment of the people; the international law; and the changes in the armament of the country's defenders.

The propelling sentiment of our people- our whole people, sometimes denominated "public opinion," is a thing deeper, broader and more controlling than opinion. In fact, public opinion is rather an exponent than a cause ~~or an expression~~ of the "propelling sentiment" of a nation. Such sentiment when settled, is a permanent residuary of the convictions of human souls.

A temporary majority, such as were on the lead in our land when Polk and Pierce were presidents, or in Virginia when on the threshold of the War of Rebellion, do not always sublimately exhibit this "propelling sentiment." It depends, finally, more upon the intrinsic unconquerable energy, than upon mere numbers.

International law fixes the settlement of all questions that may arise between nations.

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A temporary majority, such as were on the lead in our land when Polk and Pierce were presidents, or in Virginia when on the threshold of the War of Rebellion, do not always subside and exhibit this "prevailing sentiment." It depends, finally, more upon the intrinsic unconquerable energy, than upon mere numbers.

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armament. The sentiment has in it faith, hope, self-interest and fear. While, ~~on the other hand,~~ international law, written and unwritten, is both a bulwark and a danger;- a bulwark against greed,- against oppression and cruelty; but that Law ^{is} ~~is still~~ ^{yet} not so worded as to prevent the shedding of the blood of the guiltless. [However modified by humanities, the law still too often puts the heel of the despotic giant upon the neck of the innocent.] It is not yet like the laws of our national courts- an ultimatum of justice.

2. THE PROPELLING SENTIMENT.- THE WAR SPIRIT.

Consider now what fosters a War Spirit among the youth of our land.

For the sake of simplicity try the effect of ^a ~~my own~~ personal connection with the wars of our Republic,-

My first recollection of anything pertaining to war gives this picture.- A little boy sitting upon the knee of his aged grandsire and listening to his stories of the Revolution. He himself told me how his father was an officer in the Continental Army.- Now he was several times called to battle.- So I have long wondered where those famous battles might have been. Bridgewater, his residence, was too far away for him to have been present at Lexington; he might later have been at Bunker Hill, at Brooklyn Heights, at Newport, at Danbury, Conn., or at Ticonderoga; for this officer,- a sort of "Minute Man" was several times called out not only in Massachusetts, but with other comrades to neighboring states.

Grandfather himself, a tall, kindly man, over seventy before I knew him- told me that, being but seventeen years old, he entered the ranks in the struggle for independence, and served with his father for the last six months of that great war.

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2. THE PROPAGATING SENTIMENT. - THE WAR SPIRIT.

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Every time my mind recurs to that early picture of childhood and age, I ask why the boy had not put some very sensible questions to the veteran soldier;- for example: "In what battles were you and your father engaged?" "Did you see or know General ^{Scathaniel} Greene, General Warren or General Washington?" But of course these afterthoughts arise from a broader horizon of knowlege.

The comradeship of Veterans. - Its Undesigned Effects.

A little later in life, Lieutenant Lathrop, a veteran soldier of remarkable features, somewhat crippled in appearance, ^{lost} three fingers on one of his hands, having lost the other two in a battle of the Revolution, came to visit my grandfather. Their comradeship greatly impressed me. No two brothers could meet with more evident satisfaction, or be happier together. This fellowship, strong and deep, we now understand, and delight to witness as we see it repeated when gray-haired and wrinkled men see each other to-day.

What the old men said so heartily and so interestedly, as their eyes grew young with brightness and moisture, I very dimly recall.

The spirit of such fellowship, evincing what we name fraternity, loyalty and charity, was not confined in a corner. It was widespread. It influenced the youth of a growing people.

THE INFLUENCE OF ARMAMENT.

Often in those days I saw, as I have seen since, specimens of the arms they used. Their muskets were cumbersome and of all sorts,- shot guns were more used than anything else. The cannon and mortars, even of the enemy, were unwieldy and their carriages of every discription,- strong enough, indeed, but so heavy as to clog the movments and prevent the activity essential to prompt success.

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other, yet all such things were hindrances which men accustomed to modern usages hardly realize. By such hindrances, war was greatly prolonged.

(c) Stories of the Revolution were Sacred Educators.

The few glimpses which I thus obtained of the Revolution from those who had participated in it had positive effects upon my young mind- one effect was to add intense interest to every story of the Revolution. In fact, before our war, these stories of the Revolution were almost as sacred to the children as those of the Bible. Our sympathy for our fathers in their struggle for independence began then and there, and was strong in its foundation. What I say for myself, I say also for my youthful associates, some of whom had better opportunities for such military lore than I. We talked of the war for Independence as children do now of the Rebellion; to that war we were about as near.

(d) Patriotic Addresses.

The Recorded Speeches Were Mile-Stones!

Among the first speeches that I memorized in our district school was that which Warren was supposed to have given at Bunker Hill. The poet, John Pierpont, caught the spirit of Warren's address, and rendered it,- It began:

"Stand. The ground is your own, my braves.
"Will you give it up to slaves?" etc.

The closing words were strong.

"In the God of battles trust.
Die we may,- and die we must:
But, oh where can dust to dust
Be consigned so well,
As where Heaven its dew shall shed
On the martyr'd patriot's bed;
And the rocks shall raise their heads
Of his deeds to tell?"

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Conceive, if you can, the effect of such stern words upon the heart of a child.

The speech of Samuel Adams, given in Philadelphia in the August succeeding the Declaration of Independence, and while hard war was still upon our fathers, closes with such utterances as these:

"Our union is now complete. You have in the field armies sufficient to repel the whole force of our enemies. The hearts of our soldiers beat high with the spirit of freedom. Go on, then, in your generous enterprises, with gratitude to Heaven for past success, and confidence for the future. For my part, I ask no greater blessing than to share with you the common danger and the common glory. If I have a wish dearer to my soul, than that my ashes may be mingled with those of a Warren and a Montgomery, it is, - that THESE AMERICAN STATES MAY NEVER CEASE TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT,"

Such sterling utterances not only shaped our patriotic principles, but were wont to fire our hearts with feelings of resentment toward England and toward all oppressors and oppression, and gave us children, impulses which all collateral and subsequent teachings did never quite eradicate. In fact a purely patriotic sentiment became a controlling power.

(e) The War of 1812 - 1814, taught some few lessons.

When the War of 1812 - 1814 came on, it made upon all our Americans, its peculiar impression; there was some shame in it, for as a people we were illy prepared for war and our losses were great and continuous; till even the capital city, Washington, was burned. There were on land but two redeeming features of this struggle.

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below New Orleans, which grandly closed out the strife.

This war which, doubtless, with a little extra effort at diplomacy by abler men, might have been averted, and which gave very little honor to our authorities in its prosecution, has naturally furnished but little patriotic literature, - but little which reached the youth of the land to influence them to love their country more, and to make sacrifices for its benefit.

Indeed, the Navy with us gained greater credit than the Army; and so we find some hearty songs to glorify the frigate "United States" in her successful conflict with the "Macedonian." The commander of the "United States," Captain Stephen Decatur, brought his prize, the "Macedonian" into New London, Conn., and afterwards received the highest honors from every part of the country.

Oliver Wendall Holmes has reminded us also of the work of another vessel on the Atlantic, of the frigate "Constitution." He protested against dismantling that frigate in such words as these:-

"Her deck, once red with heroes' blood,
Where knelt the vanquished foe,
When winds were hurrying o'er the flood,
And waves were white below,
No more shall feel the victor's tread,
Or know the conquered knee;-
The harpies of the shore shall pluck
This eagle of the sea."

Again, ever to be remembered, was the gallant and effective ship of Commodore Perry on Lake Erie; which gave additional brilliancy to General Harrison's operations in Canada.

After all ^{that} I have intimated in derogation of the War of 1812, there came out of it two remarkable things:-

The first one:- Our country succeeded, at least by subsequent diplomacy, in preventing the "right of search" of vessels sailing under

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