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(Illustrations are indicated by an asterisk.)

THE GREAT VICTORY.

There was satisfaction in Athens when the overwhelming danger to the Republic from the hosts of Darius was scattered at the b . tle of Marathon; there was relief throughout Greece when the still greater power of Xerxes was broken at Platæa; the bells of England rang with gladnes when the Invincible Armada was swept away by the fleets of Elizabeth; but never since the beginning of the world has there been so wide-spread, exalted, and profound joy as that which filled the hearts of the American people when the telegraph flashed the intelligence over the land that the central power of the rebellion was broken in pieces.

And well we might rejoice. This great event stirred all the emotions of the heart. It appealed to all that is weakest and strongest, to all that is highest and lowest in human nature. The first thought was a feeling of triumph over the formidable enemy that was struggling to destroy the nation, an enemy defiant, haughty, contemptuous and absolutely fiendish in his malignant cruelty. But the strongest emotion was gratitude for the safety of the unity and power of the nation through the great peril. It was well understood that the question at issue was, whether this country should be broken up into hostile and contending fragments, burdened with the support of vast armies and navies, passing the time in brief alternations from peace to war, now watching with jealousy the growth of each other's power, and now cutting each other's throats; or whether we should be one great, united, harmonious people, settling our disputes by decisions of the Supreme Court, with the inconceivable blessings of popular education spread throughout our borders, with an organized, prosperous, contented and hopeful industry, with the means of happiness more abundantly and more widely diffused, and with the masses of the people raised higher in the scale of humanity than has ever yet been known in the history of the human race.

For the right determination of this great debate the heart of the nation is moved with inexpressible gratitude to the brave and devoted soldiers of our patriot army. Among so many thousands there are doubtless considerable numbers of scoundrels, but on the whole there has never before been marshalled in the ranks of war a body of men so high in all mental and moral attributes as those who are now engaged in the glorious work of crushing to earth the last remnants of this most wicked rebellion. The army that came nearest to ours was doubtless that of the Roundheads of England, but when we consider the progress that has been made since 1640, in civilization, and especially in general education, there can be no doubt that our soldiers are superior in intelligence and character even to the fine body of men that were led to invariable victory by Oliver Cromwell. Braver than the "Ironsides" it were perhaps impossible for soldiers to be, but impartial history will pronounce those not less brave who bent their heads and went forward through the withering fires of the Wilderness, and dashed themselves so many times against the impregnable defences of Spottsylvania.

With this gratitude to the soldiers comes the slow but inevitable recognition of the greatness of their commander. General Grant may not have an intellect superior in its power of comprehending problems, but through all future generations his memory will occupy the very highest position among those eminent men who have been great in action. The mind that he has is all wisdom; it is a guide to conduct; it throws its light upon the untrodden way. His judgment is healthy and sound, and is not disturbed by collateral and irrelevant considerations. "He has one of those rare intellects that across the maze of immaterial facts goes straight to the true point."

But the judgment of General Grant would have done nothing towards accomplishing his great achievements without those strong qualities which have carried his decisions into effect. His power of dispatching business brought all departments of his great army into the highest perfection of organization and discipline. He has, too, in an eminent degree that highest courage which has been rare indeed among the commanders of armies—the moral courage that dares to take the responsibility of battle. But the strongest element in his character is his inflexible tenacity of purpose. It is not the patience that waits in idleness, but the active perseverance that works and waits—the instinctive determination that is stimulated to more dogged obstinacy by the encounter of unforeseen obstacles, and that never thinks of looking back. This is indeed the most powerful quality in human nature, and in a contest it decides the victory. Said Wellington at Waterloo—"Three times I have saved this day by perseverance," the triumphs of Marlborough were due to the same spirit, and the highest appreciation of the noble character of Milton has declared its crowning grace to have been "his sublime and majestic patience."

The surrender of Lee, with his whole army, is a fitting conclusion of the masterly generalship of Grant and the splendid fighting of his noble army.

KNOWING TOO MUCH

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thi .g," says Pope, and the truth of it was brought forcibly to our mind recently, when visiting a machine shop. The foreman was telling an apprentice how to do some part of the work when the youth interrupted him, saying—"I know all about it—I can do it myself." "Well!" said the foreman in reply, "I have been twenty years in this business and I can't say that I know it all. I am content to learn every day, and I think after you have lived a little longer you will find what I say to be true."

It was; we corroborate it.

It is natural that a youth should be hasty, and in the pride of his initiation into a few mysteries of his trade, fancy he is master of it all. But time brings experience to him as to us all, and that is the light which reveals, not how much but how little we know.

All knowledge is comparative, and the greatest minds are not the most ostentatious—not the most boastful of their accomplishments—but are content to acquire a little every day, to add to their stock. "There is no royal road to learning," which is to say, that the man in humble life has as fair a chance as the rich one, and that money cannot purchase mental ability, although it may bring privileges for information. In the pursuit of knowledge with facilities, not under difficulties, we are all dependent one upon the other. The practical man has his experience to demonstrate that certain effects spring from specific causes; the scientist brings his knowledge of physical laws and the properties of matter generally to bear upon the solution of a given question, and both classes work to mutual advantage; for one to sneer at the other as a visionary, or as an artisan, as the case may be, is to show how a little knowledge can be made a dangerous thing.

STRIKES.

If the story of a helpless child starving to death is told in simple narative and minute detail, it moves the sympathy, and harrows the soul of every reader; it sinks into the heart, and fastens upon the memory so that it can never be forgotten. But if the story is of many hundreds or thousands perishing by starvation, the magnitude of the suffering removes it from the scope of our sympathy.

By this principle in human nature, we all fail to form any conception of the wasting woe that is now filling thousands of households among the iron workers of England. The 70,000 men that were thrown out of employment by the great lock-out, have no means of obtaining a subsistence for themselves and their little ones but their own skilled right hands, and these are now hanging idle by their sides, in consequence of a quarrel between themselves and their employers.

While it is beyond the power of our imagination to conceive the cruelty upon the part of the iron masters which could arbitrarily bring this wide-spread suffering upon their colaborers, we are prompted to enquire whether the conduct of the workmen has been so marked by common sense and judgment as to make it a guide for imitation. This great crisis brings up anew the ever recurring question in relation to the wisdom of strikes.

There are two kinds of strikes, and one of these must certainly command the approval of all who really sympathize with the masses of mankind. That is the strike of the individual, who accumulates capital by saving till he can leave his service and go to work upon his own account. All the advance that has been made in wages, from a few pennies a day up to as many shillings or dollars, has been effected by this operation. The price of labor, like the price of everything else, is fixed by an inexorable law of nature, which no man can alter—the law of supply and demand. The demand for labor depends upon the amount of capital seeking to hire laborers. Every man who withdraws himself from the body of employed and adds himself to the body of employers, exerts a tendency by both operations to raise the wages of labor. We may hate, we may even despise, this miserly spirit, but we cannot deny that we are indebted to this very spirit of accumulation for the superiority of wages in this country and England over those in India and Ceylon.

In a nation of educated and provident workmen large numbers of individuals are constantly passing from the class of hired to that of hirers, and wages consequently are steadily advancing, without any jar, without any ill will, without any suffering. We raise no quarrel with those who think it wise and profitable to organize strikes. We are well content that every man should determine his own course in accordance with his own judgment. But for our own part, the agencies to which we look for securing a perpetual advance in wages, are common schools and savings banks.

VALUE OF COAL ASHES.

The *Manchester Courier* of March 11th says:—"It seems that an extraordinary rise has taken place in the value of ashes in London. A short time ago the parish of St. Pancras had to pay contractors to take them away from the houses in the district, but it has now, in consequence of the augmented value, conceded the right to collect them to Mr. Ferguson, of Paddington, for which he has paid no less than £1,800, although the concession is only for six months. But the high price tempts other speculators to poach on Mr. Ferguson's manor and yesterday morning he had to bring a man named Bridges before the Clerkenwell magistrate, for purchasing ashes of the inhabitants on his own account. The magistrate said he was determined to protect the contractor, and fined the unauthorized collector, £2. As he was unable to pay that sum he was sent to prison for three weeks."

It would be very interesting to know for what purpose these ashes are used. Muspratt gives analyses of nine samples of Scotch and Welsh coals; and of