AMERICAN WOMEN GIVE ENGLAND MODEL SCHOOL

Unkempt *and* Ill-taught Farmers' Children Taken Out of Unsanitary Conditions and Provided With Educational Appliances That Astonish the Local Authorities

LONDON, Sept. 24.—Two American ladies are setting England an example in the reform of the village school. They are Mrs. Victoria Woodhull Martin and her daughter, Miss Zula Maud Woodhull. Mrs. Martin is better known in America as Victoria Woodhull, under which name she made a great fight half a century ago for the vote for women. It will be remembered that she was the only woman who was ever nominated for the presidency of the United States.

Victoria Woodhull and her daughter are teaching England a lesson on their beautiful estate at Norton Park, in Worcestershire. This estate is now the property of Miss Woodhull, having been left to her by John Biddulph Martin, the millionaire banker, who married Victoria Woodhull nearly 30 years ago. The Martin family have been large landowners in that part of Worcestershire for many generations.

Some years ago Miss Woodhull and her mother gave to the county the school at Bredons Norton, the village which nestles at the foot of Bredon hill, on which Norton Park stands. They turned it over to the county education committee, and for years it was run in the bad old way in which most of the village schools in England are still run. The children were taught little, the teacher was underpaid and overworked, and the sanitary conditions were such that they are best left undescribed.

It is enough to say that in most of the English villages today the physique of the school children is much inferior to that of the school children of the towns.

About a year ago Victoria Woodhull and Miss Woodhull paid a visit to the school and were shocked with the condition of things which they found there. The children were dirty and uncared for. They were evidently profiting not at all by the teaching such as it was, and it was also evident that their health was suffering. The two women at once put themselves in communication with the county authorities and placed a plan of reform before them. Victoria Woodhull proposed that the kindergarten system of teaching should be introduced at once, that competent teachers should be engaged and that the children should be regularly inspected by a medical man. She offered to bear any extra expense which might be entailed by these reforms, but the education committee stood on its dignity and declared that what was good for the rest of Worcestershire was good enough for Bredon's Norton. Their reply to the suggestion that the kindergarten method should be introduced was that they had never heard of a teacher named Froebel, and that they did not propose to introduce any new and untried method of teaching in Worcestershire.

It wasn't the American way to take a rebuff like this, and the demand for reform was pressed. Finally the education committee told the two women that if they didnt like the way the school was being run they could take it and run it themselves. They seized the chance of setting an example for other village schools, and today Bredon's Norton has the distinction of having what is without doubt the best-equipped village school in England.

The first step was to clean up the building, which had been allowed to fall into a semi-ruinous condition, and to replace the old village teacher by two trained kindergartners from the best training college in London. In fact, the two young women who are teaching the children of the Worcestershire peasants in Bredon's Norton have received exactly the same training as the governess who is educating the little children of the Prince and Princess of Wales, England's future king and queen. Every appliance that could be thought of to make teaching easier and learning pleasanter for the children has been supplied. They march and dance to the strains of a high-class auto piano, the teacher thus being free to devote all her attention to the marching and dancing, and they listen to Tetrazzini, Melba and other great artistes as interpreted by the best gramophone that money can buy.

A doctor examines them once a week and any defect of vision or incipient illness is at once noted and attended to.

One result is that children who under the old school methods were classed as dunces have developed into model pupils, because the eye weakness which caused their apparent dullness has been discovered and remedied. The walls of the school are covered with good pictures and arrangements are being made to bring lecturers down from London to talk to the children and to illustrate their talks by magic lantern exhibitions. A beginning has been made already in the lecture course. Last winter one of the teachers of the village school made a trip to Rome and since her return she has been able to take the children over the ground she traveled with the aid of photographs and magic lantern slides.

Practical teaching is not forgotten in the Bredon's Norton school. Most of the children are the sons and daughters of farm laborers and their lot in life will be cast on the farms. There is a garden attached to the school and the children receive regular lessons in gardening and in the lighter kinds of farming. The girls are taught butter making and the care of poultry. Nature study is the excuse for delightful rambles in the woods and fields.

Miss Woodhull and her mother are planning now to extend the scope of the school. Plans have been drawn for a new building which will serve as a village hall as well as a school room and which will accommodate the children from four or five villages within the radius of five or six miles. A motor omnibus will collect them from these villages in the morning and take them home again after school.

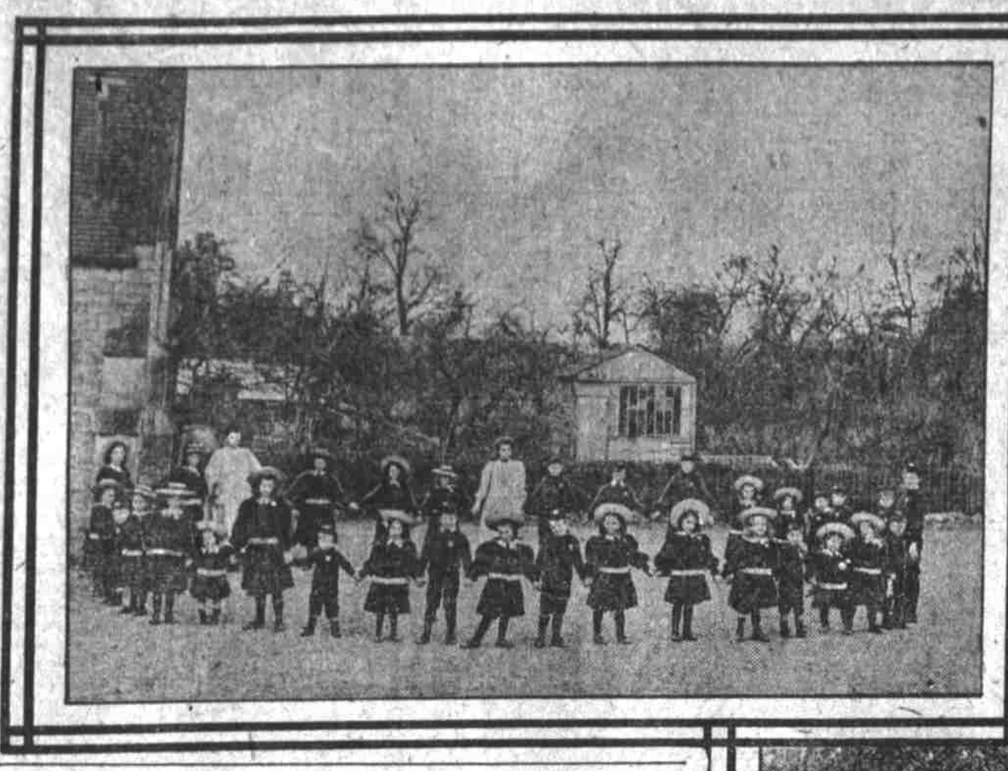
The most surprising thing of all is that the Worcestershire county councilors are fast becoming converted to the new state of things. One after another they are informing Mrs. Martin that they are astonished at the progress the Bredon's Norton children are making and that they are sorry that they did not accept her suggestions at first. They are even talking about taking Bredon's Norton as a model for the rest of the county. And it is no wonder that they have been converted. A year ago the children were ragged, dirty and ignorant. Today they are clad in neat school uniforms, clean and intelligent. They can scarcely be recognized as the same children. The progress that they have made is a standing contradiction to the statement, too often made, that little can be done to improve the standard of intelligence among the English agricultural laborers. It seems to be only a question of catching them young enough.

The village school is only a part of the work Victoria Woodhull and her daughter are carrying out at Norton Park. The old manor house has been turned into a woman's agricultural club and training school where a couple of score of women are studying. The estate of 5,000 acres is being split up into small holdings ranging in size from 15 to 40 acres, which will be let to men who are competent to make the most of the land and to apply the discoveries of modern science to its cultivation. Their aim is to make Norton Park the center of a great educational movement which will help to regenerate England and their hope is that other English landowners will follow in their footsteps.

"We wish to revive the old motto, 'Noblesse oblige,'" said Victoria Woodhull to the writer. "The great families of England have duties which they have forgotten. Their lives are given up to the pursuit of pleasure and they never give a thought to the welfare of the thousands of human beings for whom they are responsible.

"I find that our neighbors are watching our experiments with the keenest interest and many of them would like to follow our example. Some of them are afraid that we are going too far and say that they cannot follow us. There is not one who could not do the same if they would only give up a little of the useless luxury by which they are now surrounded and fettered."

Miss Woodhull has a large estate in South Carolina where she will probably repeat the object lesson she is now teaching in England, as soon as her work in England is so far advanced that it will not require her undivided attention.



A New Jersey inventor has applied for a patent on a process of treating the bases of telephone and other poles with hot asphalt by which he claims, at slight expense, they can be prevented from rotting for 10 years.

POPE PIUS IX AND HIS CLAIM TO CHURCH SAINTHOOD--Following Customary Rules in Such Matters, Special Commission is Investigating Pontiff's Career to Test Claim

From the New York Times.

MEMBERS of the extraordinary commission appointed by Pope Pius X to discover whether Pius IX be worthy of sainthood are now in session in the bishop's palace at Imola, which was the late pontiff's second Episcopal See. The commission will probably remain there for several months, after which it will proceed to Sinigalia, then to Spoleto, Gaeth, Naples, and finally to Rome—following in more or less chronological order the places identified with the pontiff's career. Everywhere the commission will take testimony from documents, books, and witnesses, and no act of the pope will remain uncovered. Even legends and traditions will be gone into to see if their origin rest not in historical or theological fact.

The work of the commission is called the "process of beatification," which is a necessary preliminary to canonization. Their evidence will be presented by Manager Antonio Cani, the head of the commission, in the presence of the cardinal "ponente," in Rome, where it will be attacked by the "Avocatus Diaboli," or "devil's advocate," and further arguments will be made before the congregation of rites. The arguments pro and con will then be laid before the "Coram Sanctissimo," presided over by the pope himself, to whom briefs will be submitted by the candidate's counsel and by that of the "devil." The pope will then decide whether the beatification is proved. If so, he will issue a pontifical decree authorizing the canonization and arranging the date for the ceremony. After which it remains only to give Pius IX his saintly title and fix his place in the calendar.

At the beginning of the history of the church, the pope, or bishop of Rome as he then was, merely confirmed public opinion in conferring the honor of perpetual sanctity. The early Christian martyrs were first admitted to the category of saints without question, for it was deemed that they had sealed their claim to sanctity with their blood. Such a distinguished honor, however, could hardly be kept from perversion, and laymen as well as prelates were promised sanctity for upholding the power of the church against her enemies or for materially aiding the designs of the reigning pontiff. Thus, Henry I was canonized by Eugenius III, and Edward the Confessor by Alexander III. But through all the vicissitudes of saintly history two requirements were almost invariably adhered to—a candidate must be dead, and, either living or dead, he must have performed at least two miracles.

In the middle ages promiscuous canonization became so general that every succeeding pope found himself hampered by the pledges of his predecessors and measurably obstructed in his spiritual and temporal administration by those who would force him to make new ones. The first firm stand against the malpractice was taken in 1750 by Benedict XIV, who exercised such severity in sifting the evidence for beatification that he became popularly known as the "Avocatuc, Diaboli," and from that time on a regular "devil's advocate," usually a cardinal of vast knowledge and forensic and oratorical ability, was appointed to contest the claims to sanctity. And so well did these lawyer-prelates perform their work that pledges for posthumous sanctity disappeared entirely and miracles, as the now one essential element to beatification, lost their potency. Moreover, it must be proved that the candidate had lived a saintly life and has been popularly recognized as "blessed" by his contemporaries.

Today the conditions of beatification which the extraordinary commission at Imola must establish, and so well establish as to resist the theological and legal knowledge, the logic and the eloquence of the "devil's advocate," fall under three heads which may be briefly summarized by the following questions:

Was the candidate ever regarded as one able to intercede between humanity and divinity, and did he so intercede with tangible results? Did he display to the highest possible degree fortitude, justice, temperance in all things, humility, chastity, and love? Did he ever perform miracles, or did anything connected with him, possessed by him, or tangible with him, before or after death, produce miracles?

Imola, the seat of the diocese of that name, is situated on a luxuriant and beautiful plain on the Santerno and near the old Via Aemilia. It is about 20 miles southeast of Bologna, within whose political and ecclesiastical jurisdiction it was once held. The town, with its 35,000 inhabitants, is a well-preserved mediaeval relic, with walls and battlements and broad streets lined with arcades. The cathedral of San Cassiano, with its octagonal tower, can be seen for miles around. The place has been the seat of a bishop since 422, and in the old days of temporal power was held in such high rank as to be coveted by many titular archbishops. To Dantelsts Imola is interesting as the birthplace of Rambaldi, better known as Benvenuto da Imoja, who occupied the first Dante chair at the university of Bologna in the last quarter of the fourteenth century, and the second in the world, being preceded only by the chair established for Boccaccio at the university of Florence.

To Imola came, in 1832, Giovanni Maria Mastl Ferretti, he who was later to bear the title of Pius IX. The Mastai is an ancient and noble family of Sinigallia, near Ancona, and here Giovanni was born May 13, 1792. He grew up a handsome lad and was educated at the college of Piarists in Volterra. On leaving the college, where he was noted for his charm of manner and great kindness, although subject to periods of mental depression and epileptic fits, which precluded close application to study, he returned to his father's house in Sinigallia. There he conceived an attachment for a lady of noble family, the nonrequittal of which was the main cause of his entering the church.

In 1818 he became the traveling companion of Mgr. Odescalchi, a prelate in high standing at the Vatican and through whom he met Pius VII. The pope further encouraged him to enter an ecclesiastical career, and he was admitted to deacon's orders. As a priest he celebrated his first mass on Easter Sunday, 1819. He rose rapidly in the heirarchy. In 1823 he accompanied Mgr. Muzi to Santiago de Chile. Returning to Rome two years later, he was made a canon of Santa Maria in the Via Lata and the chief guardian of San Michele, a charitable institution for destitute children. Again, after a period of two years, he was made titular archbishop of Spoleto, where his residence became marked by acts of great benevolence and charity.

He lacked, however, executive ability and the records show that he was unable to regulate the finances of the arch-diocese as well as his private exchequer. At Spoleto he once saved Louis Napoleon, afterward Napoleon III, from capture and secured his escape, which act brought him into conflict with the new pope, Gregory XVI, whose reactionary policy he deplored. Gregory translated him to the bishopric of Imola as a rebuke for his presumption, not perceiving, perhaps, as I have pointed out, that Imola really took precedence of Spoleto. Further antagonism on the part of Gregory XVI is shown by the fact that Mastai, although elected cardinal in 1839, was not proclaimed as such until nearly one year later. Gregory openly expressed the opinion that Mastai's kindly disposition and lack of executive ability unfitted him for power; yet, he could not deny the magnetic influence of the young cardinal. There is something prophetic in his remark: "Some day Mastai may be pope, but he will ruin the church."

This "some day" was June 16, 1846, when Cardinal Giovanni Mastai was elected to the papal chair as Pius IX, choosing his name out of respect to his friend, Pius VII. His election, however, was narrowly won, for, even as it took place, a messenger was on his way to Rome from the court of Vienna armed with the "Spanish veto"—an instrument which, although now abolished, prevented Cardinal Rampolla from succeeding Leo XIII at the conclave of 1903.

It would be superfluous in this brief article to determine how far the prophecy of Gregory XVI was carried out. We need only concern ourselves with little more than the facts of Mastai's residence at Naples as papal nuncio in 1839, and his residence at Gaeta from November 24, 1848, to April 12, 1850, when he was forced by a mob of disbanded republican soldiers to quit the Eternal City. During this period of self-imposed exile, while the Catholic powers, France, Austria, Spain and Naples, were bargaining with the victorious and expanding kingdom of Sardinia for the return of the pope to temporal power, the career of Pius X became the object of much romance and his personality of much reverence on the part of the Gaetani, among whom he went about for some months disguised as a poor priest, talking freely with the peasants and sharing their meager fare.

At Gaeta, doubtless, the most wealthy store of testimony will be acquired by the extraordinary commission. At Rome itself, however, the commission's work, to the lay mind at least, seems almost interminable, for the career of Pius IX terminated the temporal rule of the church as an organized government, and the prophecy of Gregory XVI, even by devout Catholics, is often regarded as having been fulfilled. Indeed, the "devil's advocate" may almost be said to find his brief ready at hand in the records of Pius IX's relations with the Catholic powers. Moreover, in Rome, as has already been related in a cable dispatch, the Falconieri family is preparing to oppose the beatification before the Congregation of Rites on the ground that the late pope, "by violent and illegal means," once diverted their estates from the rightful owner.

It is unlikely, however, that the "devil's advocate" can make much of this episode, for Pius IX was deceived by his secretary as to the transaction and by no means profited by it, while repeated lawsuits in civil courts have upheld the claims of the present owners against the Falconieri. The fact, however, that Pius IX confirmed the beatification of more candidates for sainthood than any of his predecessors for 200 years, will doubtless be made the most of by the "devil's advocate."

As to miracles, which is the third test of those for whom beatification is sought, there are episodes in Giovanni Mastai's career in Sinigallia as well as Spoleto, and especially in Gaeta, which have long been accepted by devout minds as divine manifestations. It remains to be seen whether the "devil's advocate" can reduce them all to natural phenomena or dare go further and characterize them as manifestations of his own satanic master. But, if Rome offers the best opportunity for the "devil's advocate" in regard to the first two conditions of sainthood, it may also prove his undoing in regard to the third.

Sixty years ago Sardinian agents in Rome started the story that Pius IX was a "malocchio," or "jettatura," or in other words, that he possessed the evil eye. This story was so generally believed that whenever the pope visited the column in the Piazza di Spagna to see how the work was progressing, the workmen there would turn away and make the "mane cornute," by clasping the middle fingers under the thumb and projecting the first and little fingers as a sign to ward off the supposed evil. This slander, however, finally received its death blow in the Basillica di Sant' Agnese.

One day the pope was saying mass there, when the floor gave way and precipitated the congregation into the cellar. It was a fall of 40 feet, and that the pope stood alone by the altar uninjured might have proved the presence of the "malocchio," were it not for the fact that not a single person in the congregation was even scarred.

The pope continued to stand praying before the altar until all had been rescued. This prodigy not only proved that the pope was not a "jettatura," but also that he had performed a miracle in preventing the congregation from being injured. To this day there are certain old men and women who were present there and who say that they did not fall in a heap amid the ruins, but were wafted gently downward as on a cloud. A fresco in the Basilica commemorates the prodigy, which will require extraordinary efforts on the part of the "devil's advocate" to render naught.

LONDONER TAKES NOTES OF AMERICAN WAYS--Makes Discoveries Regarding America's Poor, the Average Wage-Earners, *and* Its Many Men *of* Many Millions

IT is always interesting, though not always pleasant, to see ourselves as others see us—to hear what foreigners think of our institutions or mode of living, or to read what alien writers have to say of our merits or shortcomings. The opportunity has been once more afforded, this time by an "occasional correspondent" of the London Times, who has been in New York taking notes.

"I have never," the writer confesses, "indulged in the fashionable pastime of slumming. I have, however, acquaintance with the poorest quarters of most of the capitals of the world; and, in analogous districts of American cities, I have been impressed by the comparative absence of the outward and visible sign of deep and widespread poverty which is seen by the most casual observer, in the dress of large classes of citizens in other lands. It seems as if Americans, alone of all peoples, had not the poor, at least in appreciable number, always with them.

"But things are not what they seem; and the appearance of Americans is a deceptive guide to their true estate. The poor are here. Their democratic training, however, has led them to presuppose that a common standard belongs to all; and to this standard they are constantly striving to conform. It is easier for the poor to approach to conformity to the rich in their dress than in any other particular. Therefore, the poor in America take more thought for raiment, and devote to it a larger proportion of their income, than the poor in other lands; and the appearance of general prosperity indicates an effort toward democratic expression, rather than the universal possession of adequate means of existence.

"The familiar tokens of poverty are found in the homes of multitudes of those whom one sees elsewhere in brave attire. I first made acquaintance with this fact by visiting in their homes some men and women whom I had met at social settlements; and, later, statistics confirmed my personal view.

"In fairly prosperous years there are at least 10,000,000—some careful statisticians say from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000—people in America who are always underfed and poorly housed; and of these, 4,000,000 are public paupers. Little children to the number of 1,700,000, who should be at school, and about 5,000,000 woman are wage earners in America. Yet the bureau of labor for Wisconsin reports that less than 3 per cent of the families of Wisconsin have an income of over $600, while nearly 52 per cent live on less than $400 a year; and Lavasseur, in his book, "The American Worker," estimates the total income of all the wage earners in an average family at about $657.

"The case of 'salary earners' must also be taken into consideration. The prosperity of the country, which has brought some material benefit to wage earners and to men of wealth has brought no corresponding improvement in the condition of the professional class. On the contrary, hand in hand with general prosperity has come a proportionate increase in the cost of living, and the professional class—the most important element in the citizenship of the country—has not shared in the increased riches of the time. I have referred in previous articles to the inadequate salaries of teachers in the primary and secondary schools. Those of college and university professors come under the same condemnation. For example, at Harvard, during the administration of its actual president, the higher salaries have, indeed, been raised 25 per cent, but the average salary has been diminished by 40 per cent—from $3,444 in 1867-8 to $2,070 in 1902-3.

"A report of the department of correction shows that one person in every ten who dies in New York has a pauper's burial; that at the present ratio of deaths from tuberculosis, 10,000,000 persons now living will succumb to that disease, which is largely due to insufficiency of food and light and air, and that 60,463 families in the borough of Manhattan, New York, were evicted from their homes in the year 1903. I know little of statistics, and these figures may compare favorably with those of other countries. But the poverty in America that seeks to hide itself beneath fine apparel may be more bitter and more dangerous, even although it be less, than the poverty that elsewhere is naked and unashamed. At a meeting of Socialists at which I was present in Chicago an Americanized Scot won the sympathy of his audience by vehemently protesting against 'the lifelong and unpardonable indignity' that has been put upon him by those who had called the school in Edinburgh in which he had been fed, clad and educated, 'the Ragged Boys' School.' 'I will never forgive them for that word "ragged,"' the man exclaimed.

"In America, as is generally known, there is great concentration of wealth. Property of the value of $32,888,000 is owned by 1 per cent of the population; 20 per cent of the entire wealth of the country is owned by three one hundredths of 1 per cent of the population, and the total number of millionaires in New York city alone rose from 28 to 1,103 between the years 1885-92. Some of these fortunes have been well won and others ill won. I was present at the trial in a court of justice of one man who had grown fraudulently rich, and throughout the proceedings I found myself repeating the lines:

How like a hateful ape
Detected grinning 'midst his hateful hoard
A cunning man appears whose secret frauds
Are opened to the day.

"Many of the rich have honestly acquired their estates, but nine discriminations are not made in the popular judgment upon the possessors of great wealth; and those whose fortunes have been made as an incident to performing great services to the community are victims of the general resentment which has been aroused by those who have made their fortunes in evil fashion. And it must be admitted that the gents would probably be found to outnumber the sheep if any unerring separation were made, at least if those were included among the unrighteous whose righteousness did not exceed that of the merely 'law-honest,' to adopt President Roosevelt's term. And, indeed, law-honesty in money-making may in America cover many acts which the law of other lands—leaving out of consideration the tribunal which has higher than human sanctions—and the public conscience in America, as elsewhere, treat as crimes.

"Nor are these prejudices softened by the great gifts to education and charity which fall upon the nation in golden showers from the coffers of millionaires. Their moral title to their gold is challenged, and their charity is cynically interpreted as an attempt, by the restitution of a part, to compensate for injustice in gaining the whole. The generous benefactors are living in a fool's paradise if they imagine that their gifts awaken public gratitude toward themselves and their class. I have sometimes thought that colleges, libraries and other buildings bearing their donor's names, from the sight of which one cannot escape, tend in the present popular mood to keep the public mind inflamed. Eleven times in America I have heard the couplet quoted:

Who builds a house to God, not fame,
Ne'er desecrates the building with his name

and the language used by the alumni of colleges with reference to names of millionaires imposed upon 'donated' buildings must go unreported by me.

"Nor does it go unnoticed that the rich do not give themselves to the public service or the general welfare. Some of them have intellectual and moral sanity and refinement, and do not seem to lack the specifically social qualities, virtues and amenities which are supposed to be the exclusive possession of an hereditary aristocracy. Even these men, however, with one or two notable exceptions, are unchivalrous faineants in relation to the social and political problems that press for solution; and the baser sort, more completely, I think, than the analogous class of any other country, are content, in heartlessness and selfishness, to follow the thoughtless pursuits and conventions of their 'set,' in which the greatest consideration is given to those who have amassed enough wealth to rank among multi-millionaires. They are, undoubtedly, a powerful class; but its power is largely unsocial, a solvent of society and a disintegrating force in the national life in spite of and sometimes even by reason of occasional bequests to 'endow a college or a cat.' The gift without the giver is bare; and the rich as a class will remain in disrepute as long as they remain so absorbed in becoming richer, or in spending or even giving their wealth, that they cannot take their proper place, without fear or favor, in the task which, in a democracy, no individual can honorably avoid.

"I am predisposed to see Socialism where it is not rather than not to see it where it is, and to overestimate rather than to underestimate its growth and strength. Yet the conclusion has been forced upon me that Socialism has found, finds and is fated to find, in the American democracy, uncongenial soil. If this be a just conclusion it confutes the theory, which many accept, that Socialism must have its speediest and its highest development wherever there is the highest capitalistic development; the 'inevitable future' is disproved by the facts. There can be no more important work for the statesman or the sociologist than to fathom this phenomenon. But, merely to state, not to fathom it, is my part."

One third of the immigrants who arrive in the port of New York make their homes within the city limits, while the remaining two thirds are scattered throughout the country.

The crying of a pet cat aroused the family of John J. Squires near Manchester, Vt., the other night, and investigation showed that the rear of the house was on fire.

DREAM OF PEACE--*The* World Today Could Be a Garden *of* Beauty With all the Arts in Its Remote Corners

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

WHAT we call civilization, has marched over the earth through bloody battlefields.

Wars have changed the face of nature, and made, unmade, and remade nations and countries.

Wars have resulted in progress to the human race many times.

But whatever has so resulted, would have been done a thousand times more effectually and perfectly, had men been able to reason calmly, and to settle their disputes by arbitration.

Poverty, pestilence, and famine have always followed in the footsteps of war.

The world today, could be a garden of beauty, with all the arts flourishing in its most remote corners, and with ignorance an obsolete word, and education universal, had the money and mentality, used for the maintenance of armies and navies, during the last 3,000 years, been employed for education and industrial purposes.

In the days of Attila the Hun, war was pardonable.

In the days of Napoleon, the incarnated spirit of war, it was still a seeming necessity for men to find vent through this medium for their mental and physical activities.

Today there is no excuse for war.

There is no need of war.

The profession of a soldier, no longer appeals to the best and strongest minds, as it did in olden times.

Our great men stand for peace.

Yet we shall see another terrible war on earth before many years.

The monster is dying, but his head is still alive, and not until it is crushed absolutely by the heel of progress will peace and reason rule the world.

The mature men and women of today, will live to see another war.

The new-born children of the earth today will live to see wars' end.

Everything connected with war, is today an obstacle in the path of real progress for the human race. Real progress means a higher type of humanity.

Investigate carefully the conditions, customs and habits of all army and navy society and you will find class distinctions, as severly marked as the caste distinctions of India which we so loudly deplore.

The egotism, intolerance and insolence of the average petty officer, as exhibited continually toward those of inferior rank, make a travesty of the word Christianity in a Christian land.

Scarcely one spark of the divine flame of Christ's spirit of "Brotherhood" is visible in this dense darkness of military aristocracy here and in other civilized lands today.

"Life in a Garrison Town," the suppressed German novel, which Lieutenant Bilse published in 1904, and for which he was tried by court martial, stands, as its translator has said, "as a protest against official iniquity."

Lieutenant Bilse was sentenced to six months in prison, and expulsion from the German army for telling the truth about the society in which he had lived for years, in the form of fiction.

In France, a novel with a similar purpose appeared under the name of "The Maritimes."

Lieutenant Bilse said in his trial: "When I entered the army, I felt it was my vocation. But I soon observed evils and abuses which took away all my illusions."

It is only natural that cruelties and abuses should result from an organization based on the idea of slaughter of human beings.

But war has always existed and will exist for a long time to come.

We must, under present conditions, keep armies on land and sea: but the world has advanced sufficiently to cause some of the abuses which war has always engendered to be done away with. The mother of a blue jacket has been making an effort to abolish irons from the navy, as a means of punishment. Here is her letter on the subject:

"My oldest son served four years in the United States navy. Five months before his enlistment expired, I visited him in Boston. Of course, during these four years I learned much that was to me an utter surprise, the continual use of irons, both double and single, being the most degrading and repulsive. I had occasion to visit Chelsea hospital, while in Boston, and to my horror, found boys sick on their cots, their feet shackled with heavy irons. Others convalescing were hobbling about, some trying to wait on sick comrades, others in the corridors trying, in this condition, to gain exercise. Upon asking the orderly of the ward I was told that the use of irons upon these boys was an order, the order a law, and until this law was changed such treatment of sick boys would be allowed, if they had trespassed upon certain rules or were prisoners. He seemed to think it equally as cruel as I did, but said their superior officers were privileged to give these orders if they so desired. In my anger I asserted that we would change the law. And then I was scared to death. I had boldly made my assertion —how was I to carry it out?

"Two days later I came to New York, where I also visited the Brooklyn navy yard, and I saw men hobbling about with both feet and hands in irons. Following close upon their heels were masters-at-arms, well provided with ammunition. These men were emaciated and pale, having been long confined on bread and water in the brig, for long periods. I visited several ships in both Boston and New York, and on them all (with no exception) could be heard the clanking of irons being dragged across the cell floors by the unfortunate victims. The sight of these cruelties inflicted upon their fellowmates (for even the slightest offenses) causes more desertions than any other condition in the United States navy. Often the masters-at-arms beat the men until insensible while pinning them in irons. From New York I proceeded to Washington, where I met General Bonaparte (then secretary of the navy). He was most kind and gracious to me, listening with deepest interest while hearing of the conditions of the 'blue jackets.' Acting upon his advice, I have succeeded in having our congressman, John J. Esch, of LaCrosse (a man of great worth and ability) place this bill (Abolishment of Irons from the Navy) before congress. For the past year we have placed ourselves in correspondence with enlisted men, ex-blue jackets and the various 'Sailors' Havens' and 'Seamen's Friendly societies.' Every report received has been strongly in favor of 'abolishment of irons.' Now the bill has been presented; it rests with the newspapers and individuals, either in private or public walks of life, to raise their voices in protest of this most brutal treatment, befitting only the conditions of the dark and middle ages. Your beautiful poems have appealed to every heart and now I ask of you, as a mother, to raise your voice and call to the good men and women of the United States to sanction this bill. General Bonaparte told me that he anticipated little objection to the bill, even by the officers, as the younger element among them objects to the extreme brutality of the masters-at-arms, who place them in irons, and in nearly every case are cruel and harsh beyond belief. We have not been hasty in our investigations, but have conscientiously gone into every detail to obtain but the truth before making statements.

"MRS. EMMA P. OLDBERG,
"1615 Ferry street, La Crosse, Wis."

An ex-blue jacket wrote to Mrs. Oldberg the following letter of approval:

"Am glad you are following up your intentions of 'abolishing irons for the navy,' for I have always considered them to be more harmful than good. No self-respecting man (such as is in the navy now-a-days) ever gets over the disgrace of wearing those irons, and they are put on for the very slightest offense, and the offender treated in the same manner as are the most desperate criminals. Now as to inconvenience: If the 'master-at-arms' or 'ships police' has any special grudge against any man, and that man should happen to be sentenced to wear the irons for five or ten days, the said 'master-at-arms' can use the irons at his own discretion, and sometimes closes them so tightly that the prisoner can hardly move. I know of several instances where men could not recover from the indignity so imposed upon them, and, therefore, deserted. As a whole summing up of the subject, I, and every blue jacket, or ex-blue jacket, will heartily indorse your movement in attempting to abolish the ancient custom of using irons in the navy, except in the case of desperate criminals, who I assure you are few and far between in the United States service."

Let us for a moment imagine what this world would become were a universal law of disarmament to be passed and put into action.

Then were the great minds now engaged upon war projects, to be bent upon making a peace world; building good roads in every large center, as well as in the most remote spots; filling in swamps; eliminating the mosquito, irrigating the deserts; inventing noiseless machinery; constructing noble buildings, parks, avenues and works of art; and increasing our educational system by establishing enough schools with well-paid teachers, who could give attention to the individual needs of children; founding great institutions for the study of the science of brain building.

Were even these few projects to be given thorough attention by the government of every land, there would be work for every man now engaged in the industries of war.

The money which goes into implements of war alone would build a chain of magnificent roads all over the world.

The money spent in mock war for "exercising armies" would establish schools in every village; the money spent in any one year of actual war would make habitable the swamps, level the impassable mountains, plant trees along bleak prairies, and establish country homes and industries for millions of people crowded into city alleys and factories.

Conservatories of art and music and literature, and scholarships for genius could make every country proud and happy, on the money which is used for ammunition alone in the practice of war.

This is, to be sure, only a dream of what might be.

Yet most things which now are were once dreams.

And some dreams come true.

In time this dream of disarmament will become a reality.

Every step toward making armies less brutal is a step in that direction. Off with the irons!