964

The Victory of Samothrace is so called from where it was found in Greece, where it was carved and erected to commemorate a naval victory gained over the great Ptolemy. The Goddess of Victory is represented as standing on the prow of a vessel. Originally, with her right hand she held a trumpet to her lips, and with her left she bore the trophy of Victory. Her wings are outspread, and the drapery clings closely to her body, and is swept backward by the wind. The statue is now without head, arms or feet, and yet in this mutilated form it suggests, as does no other piece of sculpture of ancient or modern times, irresistible energy and boundless life. Its influence on the beholder is described by Arthur J. Eddy as follows: "It seems but yesterday 1 stood before the original in the Louvre, in company with one of the great painters of to-day, and he said that, of all the pieces of sculpture he had ever seen, none aroused in him so much enthusiasm and exaltation. Look at the wonderful poise of the figure, the sweep of the garment-it is as if the north wind became visible-headless, armless, footless; tho' but an heroic fragment, still do we miss nothing; the power of the unknown master encompasseth us about with a spell."

I am sorry that I cannot get the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate " exactly the print of the statue I should like to put before them. More of a side view than the present cut, presents best to the beholder the idea of resistless energy making its way against almost overwhelming opposition. It is this view of the magnificent figure, bracing itself against the mighty wind, that I find so inspiring in its power to put into me fresh energy and determination, when all endeavor seems to be a hopeless effort. I look at my Victory, and the message of her, meaning dispels tiredness and strengthens weakness, and I am enabled to go forward to my task, whatever it may be. Nor am I alone in finding the Victory a stimulus to hopeful action. In the Louvre, where the statue is at present, the most casual observer must notice the effect it has on the beholder. Unconsciously, the shoulders straighten, the head becomes erect, and the eves brighten, the whole body show ing the effect of the energy which seems to emanate from the sculptured marble.

Quite different in its influence is the statue of the Venus de Milo. A great educator has said : "If I had a daughter, and wished her to acquire dignity and serenity of presence, 1 should place in her room, where she would constantly see it, a copy of the Venus de Milo." The history of the finding of the statue is very interesting. In the summer of 1820 a Greek peasant was excavating on the Island of Melos, near the roots of a large tree, when the earth suddenly caved in, revealing beneath the tree a great grotto or cave. Here was found the statue which by critics is considered to be the most beautiful in form and workmanship that ancient art produced. It was in three pieces, the body being broken just above the drapery, and again at the bust. Much speculation has taken place as to the position of the arms of the Goddess. Probably the best judgment places a shield resting on the raised knce; the left hand supports it, while the right is engraving on it the names of victorious warriors. The various speculations are interesting, but the position of the arms could in no wise affect the peculiar grandeur of the part of the statue which remains to It represents an ideal of wous. manhood which appeals strongly to those who believe in the cultivation of physical and mental poise. Wise, I think, is the woman who studies the statue most carefully for her own benefit, and who, if she has daughters, points out to them the beauty and nobility of character which is suggested by every curve and line of the marble. The Victory of Samothrace and the

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Venus de Milo belong to that class of great works of art with which we should surround ourselves in our homes, because of the power which belongs to them of unconscious suggestion of high ideals and great achievement.



Venus de Milo.

Discovered in 1820. Now in the Louvre, Paris.

The Temperance Question

As ample opportunity has been given during the winter for expression of opinion on the temperance question, we have decided to close the discussion. We have on hand several letters, of which below we give a synopsis.

" A Moderate Man" encloses clippings from the Auburn Citizen, giving evidence of a triumph of the normal exercise is described as like that "wets" in Franklin Co., N. Y., in of a lady's lapdog-"to be led on a which there are 43 saloons; also from the Toronto News of May 25th, pointing to unfair actions on the part of the local-option agents at Grimsby, Ont. This article may be had, no doubt, by applying to the Toronto News. . . " A Moderate Man " adds that his twenty-five dollars are still waiting for a claimant If anyone is desirous of communicating with " A Moderate Man " on the subject, we shall be pleased to forward any letters intended for him. Mr. Affleck, Oxford Co., who declares himself a "rank prohibitionist," but holds that the Biblical wine must have been fermented, also sends a communication, as does also J. J. Cochrane, Simcoe Co., who sets forth that, were there no other persons but himself concerned, a man should be allowed to drink as much as he pleases, but that, in consideration of his wife and children, the matter has a different aspect. " If the men suffered more, and the women and chilhe thinks, we would have "much less trouble in getting a prohibitory liquor law in Canada.' We thank our correspondents for the interest they have shown in this

A Door of Opportunity. I know thy works : behold I have set

before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.-Rev. iii., 8.

" Each dawn is as a welcome door, Each humblest act the wondrous key Of infinite opportunity."

For several years I have had the privilege of calling your attention to the good work done each summer by the "Children's Fresh-air Mission" of Toronto. A door of opportunity has been opened before you, and many have taken advantage of it. Only God knows where that door leads, only He can tell the infinite good you may have done. Many children may have gone back from their country visit filled with new longings after God and holiness that will be an inspiration drawing them upward, and will help the world more and more in the generations to come-spiritual seeds have a mysterious way of increasing and propagating, like the seeds we sow in our gardens.

People who work much among children are growing more and more convinced that "play" is one of the most important parts of their education. Playgrounds for city children are rapidly pushing to the front as valuable public institutions; not only because they tend to improve the coming race physically, but also becauseif properly supervised-they do much to raise the moral and spiritual tone of any community. Then, children should be given the opportunity to grub in Mother Earth sometimes, to dig and plant and study God's marvellous handiwork in His great workshop of Out-of-doors. Think of the children who live where no blade of grass can force its way through the endless pavements, the children who often live for years without seeing a green leaf -I am not speaking now of Toronto children, but of the dwellers in the tenement districts of New York, Boston, Chicago, and other crowded cities. Think of the welcome such children must have given to the present of "ninety acres of fertile land, laid out and ready for occupancy, whereon they may plant and sow and reap, the gift of the McCormick Harvester Company to the tenement dwellers of the south-west part of Chicago," which I saw mentioned in "The Survey' of May 22nd. In the same magazine is a description of the opening of the roof playground of the Hotel Waldorf, New York. This is intended to give a chance for real, healthful outdoor play, to the "pampered darlings" of the richthe poor "fluffy-ruffled, starched and combed children" of the hotel, whose leash up and down the avenue, and to be

FOUNDED 1835

Oh ' what fun it was, and how we love d Hope's Quiet Hour. Oh ! what fun it was, and how we longed for the time to come each year. Boys and girls are the same all the world over, and have just the same longings in these days for the country outing. How apt we are to forget this, and think only of OUR OWN holidays, leaving thousands of poor and needy children in the crowded districts of our city unthought-of and uncared-for. The Toronto Children's Freshair Mission is the medium through which work of this kind is carried on; finding homes among the good-hearted farmers where children are sent out for a two weeks' vacation. One cannot speak too highly of the kind treatment they receive from such friends, not that they require so much attention, but being received in the Spirit of the Master, deep and lasting impressions are made. One reoices to hear the children tell with delight of all they enjoyed, the one thing emphasized being, 'we had all we could eat.' Hundreds of children there are in our city who go hungry to bed every night. These are the ones we try to give a holiday Many nice things are told by the friends who have taken the children, of the blessings they have received in caring for them. One family who had been reading God's Word to a needy child had the joy of knowing that the little girl on her return home was the means -under God-of her father's conversion, the Bible having been an unknown book in that home." A Toronto nurse says "Let me try to picture to you a home I visited some time ago. A father, mother and four children (youngest 11 months). all living in one room, which contained a stove, bed, table, and a box to sit on, but no chairs. We found the door locked, as there were other roomers across the hall whom the mother did not want the children to bother, while she was downstairs doing some scrubbing for the landlord to pay for her rent, the father walking the streets looking for work.

'We cannot tell the influence even a few weeks may have on the boys and girls. who are at the age when it is easiest to make an impression on their minds.

'About five minutes' walk from the Nursing-at-home Mission, there is a family of six, the oldest girl works and helps provide for the others. How pleased the mother was when I told her we expected to send two of her children to the country for two weeks. She was so glad to think of her little eight-year-old girl getting to the country, as she was thin and pale, just because of lack of proper food and fresh air. How disappointed I was to have to go back and tell her we could not send her children, because of lack of houses to receive them."

EXTRACTS FROM CHILDREN'S LET-

'I got to the place and the lady met us. I was cutting flowers this morning. They have lots of flowers, I think I will

The Rector . " And how would you like to be a clergyman when you grow up. Tommy ?" The Box "Not for me! I'm sick of wearin' things that button at the back '

driven in the park." These unfortunates are to be given a chance to grub in sand, to ride on a seesaw, etc.

You see that many are struggling against tremendous difficulties in order to do something which they feel to be of infinite value to God's children-something which many of you can do very easily. for God has set before you an open door. Some of you-living within a reasonable distance of Toronto-may be willing to invite two children for a fortnight's visit. others can help the work along by sending money contributions to the Treasurer of the Mission-Martin Love, 186 Spadina Road, Toronto. The average cost per child is \$1, so anyone sending even ten cents has the privilege of giving at least one day in the country to a poor city child. As for the opportunity open to those who can receive children into their homes for the two weeks' holiday, it can only be fitly described in our Lord's own words : "Whoso shall receive one such little child in My Name receiveth ME." Those wishing to take children, should write to the Secretary-Miss Florence Roberts, 21 Scarth Road, Toronto-before June 19th. And now I must give you some extracts from the Superintend ent's Report for 1908.

"Where is there a person who does not remember with delight their Summer Undidnes when a child ⁹ The visit Holidays when a child ⁹ ... The visit to the farm where our Grand-parents' lived, how everything seemed so wonder* * *

"We arrived there quite safely, we are haveing a lovely time. I have just wrote a letter to Mother, we are having a good time, I cannot write much, good-bye. x X X X X X X X X X X

. . .

"I got to the country all-right and we had a good time in the train. When we got there there were two young ladies waiting fore us they were two nice ladies. when we got to the farm the ladies said good-morning boys and so we went to

* * *

"I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along we are enjoying ourselves very much we have lovely meals frankie and I drink a lot of milk. sunday morning Frankie and I drank a quart of milk, me and frankie go over every night to see the cows get milked, they have 14 cows. We had to get on 3 trains to come here, me and frankie went out driving with the lady, thats all I have to say, well good

"We had such a long ride in the train that I thought I was never comeing to the end of the journey, and when I got off the train I had another ride in a bugy. It is nothing but farms here everybody keeps a farm. The day I got here the lady weid me and I weid 90 pounds so she said she was going to see how much I