

It is idle to think that in the industrial communities of modern times we can revive the habits of the ancient Greeks, bodies of slave-owners dividing the leisure secured to them by the labour of their slaves between the gymnasium and war. Life now is too busy and too serious. The ideal of "noble boys at play," which the Greeks are said to have realized, may be poetic, but it cannot be ours. With the Greeks, however, athleticism was not mere play; it had in it an element of usefulness which preserved it from being childish; it was a preparation for war when war was the principal business of life, and when battles were decided by personal prowess, not by long-range rifles. Rowing a shell or walking against time is almost as little connected with anything useful as trundling a hoop.

Moreover, the ancients did not confound muscular strength with intellect, or put them on a par. Hercules is represented with an unintellectual head; and there are representations of gladiators at Rome which are evidently caricatures of brute strength by artists who despised it.

At Oxford, while athletics flourished in superabundant measure, the volunteer rifle corps of the university languished and was with difficulty kept on foot. Yet here was something really Greek; here was the modern counterpart of the military duty performed to the country by every citizen of an ancient republic. At Cornell University and other institutions enjoying Federal endowments, the American Legislature has introduced the requirement of military drill and instruction. It is to be hoped that the law will take effect. Drill and rifle practice are almost as good a recreation as any

game; they are not exhausting like athletics; they are likely to give the too-bookish student just the bracing and the tone he needs. If they are not so necessary to the modern citizen as warlike training was to the Greek, they are necessary, though in a different way. War is not likely to afflict this continent since slavery is dead and Jingoism will probably not be long-lived. But war is not the only danger. The labour riots which occurred three years ago at Pittsburg and elsewhere revealed, by the lurid light of incendiary fires, the peril in which a society unarmed and without habits of military co-operation always stands. America is annually receiving from Europe masses of immigrants more or less malcontent and unaccustomed to any government but one of force; often she receives men whose trade is industrial conspiracy, and who have been ring-leaders in the bitter conflict between labour and capital in the Old World. The army of the United States is very small, and there appears to be a disposition to reduce it still further, on the ground that it may be dangerous to liberty, though it has never swerved or shown the slightest disposition to swerve from its civil duty, even under the exciting and demoralizing influence of a great civil war. A practical recognition by American youth of the military duty of all citizens in extremity is the only possible way of guarding liberty against anarchy, relieving society of its fears, saving honest industry itself from ruin, and making conspirators feel that while every one has full liberty of speech, however wild his opinions may be, those who proceed to lay violent hands on American civilization will do it at their peril.—*Princeton Review.*