

fully and perseveringly in the United States to counteract, at least in some degree, this great current of martial enthusiasm, but unfortunately the influences tending in a contrary direction are incomparably more numerous and extensive."

With the spirit and intent of the Peace Society we heartily agree. They have accomplished much and will accomplish more for the prevention of war, the peaceful settlement of all national questions. Yet we cannot think the idea of militarism an entirely mistaken idea. It is ingrained in human life and character. The nation that has none of it has never held any position in the world, never accomplished anything for the welfare of mankind. It is not only an actually present element in humanity, but is recognized and commended as such throughout the Bible. The Christian's life is everywhere looked upon as a warfare, the Christian as a soldier. What are often called the distinctively military virtues—strict obedience, prompt action, disregard of danger, patient endurance—are no less insisted upon than are meakness, unselfishness, yielding our own rights for the sake of others. Much of evil has undoubtedly come out of the war, and the turbulence of passion aroused by the fierce contest. Yet we are to-day a stronger nation than we were thirty

years ago, and a portion of that strength is due to the development of certain elements in militarism in the people at large.

The duty of the pulpit is not to condemn the spirit in general, but the particular elements in it that are harmful. Such a service as we attended a few weeks since in honor of the Grand Army Post, we cannot look upon with disfavor, and as the members slowly filed out of the church, giving a practical enforcement by their very presence to the lessons of the pulpit, the feeling that was uppermost was one of gratitude that the military spirit of the land was so largely under the guidance of the Christian spirit. Militarism in itself, just as political life in itself, we believe to be a good, useful, essential element in the development of national as well as individual character. It may be abnormally developed, distorted, turned to unworthy and base ends, but it may also be so guided as to become a most effective feature in the attack that the church must make on the forces of evil on every side. If we had [in the church], ten-fold more of the rigid discipline, and the habit of implicit obedience, which characterize the military code and service, it would be vastly more efficient than it now is.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

##### **The Sabbath was Made for Man.**

THE question of railroad earnings is becoming one of the most serious problems of the day. According to the last census 763 railroads with a capital of \$1,627,878,218, or about two-thirds of the railroads of the United States, show net earnings averaging less than 3 per cent., or with earnings that balanced expenditures. A still farther investigation shows that the transportation expenses amount to 61 per cent. of the transportation earnings, or 7.05 per cent. of the capital and funded debt of the roads. If now these roads rep-

resenting the invested capital of thousands of people are to be made practically useful to the ministers, one great thing to be accomplished is the reduction of these transportation expenses.

*The American Sabbath Union*, giving these statements in an address by Hon. G. P. Lord at Chicago, claims that this could be done by the discontinuance, and where that is impracticable, the reduction of the Sunday trains.

There is a certain class of Sunday traffic that cannot be avoided, at least as yet. There is a vast amount