

WAR AND ITS CHANGES.

There is a strange mixture of the ideal and the real in the telegraphic news, we sometimes learn that a battle has been fought, an army defeated, and a country overrun by the conquerors; but the narrative is so tame and so common place that we scarcely bestow a thought on the dreadful scenes which lie behind the telegraphic "drop curtain." The smoking ruins, the deserted villages, the desolated farms, the women and children turned adrift, while their husbands and fathers, who were yesterday in the enjoyment of buoyant health, today lie stark and stiff under the boots of ravenous enemies, the slowly dying and crippled whose helpless forms are borne over many a rough and tortuous highway to the army hospital—these are things to which the mind but rarely reverts, and yet they are the dread but inevitable accompaniment of every battle. Occasionally we learn the effects of an army's march—the "desolation and destruction that mark its progress." We are told that Sheridan in his recent falling back in the Shenandoah Valley, laid waste the whole country from the Blue Ridge to the North Mountain, burning 2000 barns filled with hay, wheat and farming implements, and over seventy mills filled with flour and wheat, and all for the military purpose of making the country untenable for the Confederate army. When we consider the devastation that has overrun the Southern States, from the commencement of the war—the millions upon millions worth of property that has been destroyed—enough to feed all the starving of the old world—we get some faint idea of that malignant influence which presides over man when warring with his kind.

When we leave the deplorable physical effects of the intestine strife which rages on the American continent, and turn our attention to the moral metamorphoses in the billiard-rooms, we begin to see that the fiery ordeal has not been fruitless—that the besting of one of the combatants are undergoing a process to which the dross is subjected in the crucible. We perceive that insurmountable "bragadocio," by which the nation was generally characterized before the war, give way to a modesty and humility more in keeping with a Republic and with a people who can afford to be unassuming. The great change, however, which has taken place is that in reference to Slavery. Before the war, even in the North, there was but a small body—a faction it was called—who looked with horror on the institution, and who desired its abolition. Now, what do we find in the compromising North?—a war which embraces in its aims "universal emancipation." This is a change startling enough in the course of three short years; but what shall we say of the South, where the "peculiar institution" flourished and had its being—a people that went to war for the greater security of Slavery—what shall we say of its metamorphosis so illogically grand? It goes to war to perpetuate Slavery and it abandons Slavery to perpetuate the war. Was there ever a more signal rebuke given to a belligerent—a more effective argument against the *casus belli*?

There is something significant in the Southern proposition to arm the slaves and give them their freedom; not only because it shows how hopeless Slavery has become even in the eyes of the Confederates, but because it brings them to nearly the same point of view as the North. With Slavery gone there would be really nothing for the South to fight for, and she might as well save her valuable blood and her equally hard to be spared treasure. It is because things are approaching this point that we have hopes of a speedy cessation of the strife. When we read of the sacrifices and of the straits to which this self-denying people are put the hope is further strengthened. The finances of the country are in the most hopeless condition. Says the Richmond *Enquirer*: "Money has ceased to be a standard of value in the Confederacy. The promissory notes of the Government cannot buy supplies of labor. Great manufacturers hold out such inducements to purchasers who will pay in produce, that even the stringent orders of the War Department, forbidding detailed farmers to barter their crops for indispensable machinery, have become powerless. Mechanics refuse to work for anything but provisions. Teachers demand a pittance in eatables or a small fortune in treasury notes. Worst of all, Government itself offers an immense premium on all taxes paid in kind by assessing provisions furnished for that purpose at the highest market rate. It floods the country with certificates of debt. With all this wretchedness—with the loss of life and the destruction of property—with the disruption of all the legitimate channels of trade which the war has caused—there is, we believe a brighter prospect for North and South than ever. We can see the nation arise from its internal convulsion, weak

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

A numerous and most respectable assemblage met Friday at Huskinson's Exchange Rooms to organize a Mechanics' Institute. Among the gentlemen present were Captain Lang, V.R.C., G. M. Sprout, Esq., Rev. R. J. Dundas, Lieut. Varney, R.N., T. L. Wood, Esq., Attorney General, E. G. Alston, Esq., Registrar General, Messrs. Harvey, Hamilton, Daniel Scott, B. Wallace, Fell, R. Lewis, Sifton, Ewing, Troncoso, Corin, Wm. Wilson, A. Wilson, Fawcett, Elford, and a large number of the leading mechanics of the city.

Captain Lang was unanimously elected chairman and Mr. Alston Secretary. The chairman on rising to make a few remarks was greeted with applause. He said the lack of an institution of the kind proposed was one of the first wants which struck him on his arrival in the colony. He alluded to the great advantages of such institutions, and urged the audience and the citizens generally to put their shoulders to the wheel and aid the good work to the utmost of their power. He would call on Mr. Sprout to move the first resolution.

Mr. Sprout said the following resolution had been placed in his hands, and touched the only difficulty which institutions of this kind usually encountered. He had been kind here, and his experience showed that the best way was to pass some general resolutions and appoint a committee to carry out the details. He begged to propose the following resolution:

That a society be established in Victoria which shall have for its object the formation of a reading-room, library and museum; the delivery of lectures and the diffusion of literary and scientific knowledge among the people of Victoria.

Mr. R. Wallace seconded the resolution.

Mr. Wm. Leigh moved in amendment that the title be Literary and Mechanics' Institute.

Mr. Gibbon seconded.

Mr. Daniel Scott moved that a Mechanics' Institute be the title.

Mr. Troncoso seconded.

Mr. Lamont said he understood from the public press that a "Mechanics' Institute" was to be formed, and he accordingly came to see a Mechanics' Institute formed. He would support Mr. Leigh's amendment, which was carried by a large majority.

Mr. Corin proposed the next resolution, providing for the appointment of officers for the society:

Seconded by Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Wallace asked if any provision was made for President or Vice-President?

Mr. Alston said the committee would appoint its own President. The patron was the head of the society.

Mr. Wallace said the President and Vice-President should certainly be elected by the Society at large. He would therefore move an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Corin's resolution was amended by consent and passed as follows:

That the officers of the Institute shall consist of a Patron, President, Vice President, Trustees, Committee of Management, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Fawcett moved the next resolution in regard to the appointment of a managing committee of nine members, the officers of the society to be members *ex officio*.

Mr. Huskinson moved that the managing committee be restricted to three members.

Mr. R. Lewis suggested that the President, Vice President and Treasurer be also the Trustees, with a committee of six working men.

The Chairman said if the word "Trustees" was struck out of this resolution the required might be attained by another resolution.

Mr. Alston supported the proposition of a committee of nine besides the four *ex officio* members.

The resolution, amended as follows, was carried:

That the management of the Institute shall be vested in the Committee of Management which shall consist of nine members—five of whom shall form a quorum—to be elected annually at a general meeting, and of which the President to be members *ex officio*. The Committee shall have power to call meetings when necessary, but any alteration in the Constitution of the Institute shall be submitted to and approved by the general meeting, of which seven days' notice shall be given.

Mr. Richard Lewis moved the next resolution:

That a monthly subscription of One dollar in advance, or an annual subscription of Ten dollars, payable to the Treasurer, shall constitute the subscriber a member of the Institute; provided always that he be recommended by a member of the committee or by one of the officers.

Lieut. Varney seconded the resolution, and said that in England the same mode of admitting life members was by payment of ten years' subscription.

Mr. Huskinson moved, seconded by Mr. D. Scott, that life members be admitted by payment of \$50. The resolution was amended by this proposition and passed.

Mr. Fell moved the next resolution to the effect that three Trustees should be appointed

TO MANAGE THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE INSTITUTE.

Mr. Fell made a few sensible and pointed remarks on the necessity of such an institution as the one proposed.

Rev. Mr. Dundas seconded, and the resolution passed.

Mr. Pearson moved the next resolution:

That the annual general meeting of the Institute shall be held on the first Monday in November in each year, when the officers of the Institute shall be elected and its general and financial position laid before the members.

Mr. Leigh seconded.

A gentleman in the body of the hall moved that the meetings be held semi-annually. The motion was seconded but lost, and the original resolution passed.

Mr. Alston said he was glad to see so large and respectable a meeting, although the night was unfavorable. He was happy to say that \$118 had been already subscribed, \$200 of which had been collected by his friend Mr. Richard Lewis. He thought the meeting should at once proceed to the election of officers. As His Excellency had shown a warm interest in the movement, and had given \$100 towards the funds, he would beg to propose him as Patron.

For President—Capt. Lang was elected by acclamation.

For Vice-President—Mr. Gilbert M. Sprout was elected, also by acclamation.

For Treasurer—Messrs. Southgate and Troncoso were proposed, the latter being elected.

For Secretary—Mr. E. G. Alston was elected by acclamation.

The following gentlemen having received the greatest number of votes as they stand were elected as a managing committee:

Messrs. John Wright, Spratt, Drummond, R. Lewis, R. Wallace, Lieut. Varney, R.N., Wm. L. Mitchell, J. S. Jackson and J. Corin.

Bankers—The Bank of British Columbia.

Mr. Huskinson kindly offered the frame of the room to the committee of management for the time being, which generous offer was received with a round of applause.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, to which he responded in a few excellent remarks, and a vote of thanks to the Secretary for the energy he had displayed in getting up the affair the meeting dispersed.

The committee of management met after the general meeting, and fixed Tuesday next at 6 o'clock in Huskinson's Exchange Rooms, as the time and place of their first meeting.

Messrs. Troncoso, Wallace and Corin were appointed to look for suitable rooms for the Institute, and report at next meeting.

CITY COUNCIL.

The Council held a special meeting yesterday at 4 p.m. Present—His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Fell, Smith, Allatt, Jeffrey and Munro.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE READ AND ORDERED TO BE PLACED ON FILE:

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