

ed when human nature was changed and men ceased to insult one another—but that it was academic and pedantic to talk of the discontinuance of the duel so long as men were as they are. Perhaps men are not just what they were—but they have not ceased to insult one another. And yet the duel is practically a thing of the past. May it not be the same in the case of war. If we believe that war is no better a mode of settling national disputes than the duel is for settling affairs of honour between individuals. It would seem as if we hardly needed to argue that war is the cause of many evils. It is not inappropriately coupled with famine and pestilence as a trio of horrors. Ravage, waste, disease and death follow in its train. General Sherman, one of the ablest generals in the Northern army, said that war was Hell. He knew how far it was from the ideal of peace on earth and good-will amongst men. And if war be what Sherman pictured it, it is certainly not a purely academic question to ask if it has to continue as the only available means of settling national quarrels. In spite of the fact that arguments can be raised in defence of war. Some of them having force. I believe that its years are numbered. It will be well, however, to point out some of the arguments used in support of war and seek to answer them:—

1. Bacon said that the heat of a foreign war was like the heat of exercise; while the heat of a civil war was the heat of fever. Civil war consumed and wasted the body politic like a disease; a foreign war strengthened the body politic and kept it in condition. Perhaps Shakespeare lends some support to the idea, particularly when he describes the kind of soldier recruited by Sir John Falstaff, diseased ragamuffins, the off-scourings of society. If these soldiers were merely parasites or a menace to the nations well-being it might seem as if war were a means of draining off this social poison and corruption.

But it is not true that soldiers are the riff-raff of the country. No one can read Kipling's account of Tommy Atkins without feeling that Tommy whatever his faults and failings is a man—a man in his recognition of the merits of a foe and in his willingness to own up to his own failures and mistakes. And when you consider the citizen—soldier of the U. S. in the civil war—or our own volunteers, you are considering picked men. U. S. Grant said that he was struck time and again by the fact that in his army no accident could occur with which some soldier in the ranks could not immediately cope. They could construct a rude carpenter's shop or blacksmith's forge at the shortest notice, and mend a gun carriage or a locomotive. In Stonewall Jackson's army in winter quarters—university classes were carried on in many subjects, including theology—professors and students being in the army. And our boys in South Africa were our best blood. Abraham Lincoln wrote to Mrs. Pixley, whose five sons had fallen in battle, to this effect:—

Dear Madam:—I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tender-