

many. No doubt such martial desolation would be splendid material for some gifted artist. But the reality, it is to be hoped, belongs to the buried past, and only to be revived when reason is darkened o'er by the dull cloud of insanity.

The soldiers patriotism. The soldiers courage, fortitude and generalship can find plenty of scope in the peaceful paths of trade and enterprise. In the battle of life there are enough dangers to contend with in the shape of maladies, accidents on water and land. The engines of trade and transit are often enough the engines of human sacrifices. The thirst for wealth and position. The unhealthy ambition for notoriety and class distinction. And the inclination to neglect the humane and Christian virtues of the more practical kind. A man has plenty of opportunity in displaying his heroism at the present time without hacking his fellow man into sections with the instruments of sanguinary conflict. There is lots of room for hardship, pain and mortification, in this enlightened age without carrying a gun. The road to patriotism and honor is frequently strewn with Scotch thistles, and requires all the soldier's courage and devotion to come off with the Victoria Cross.

In the foregoing picture of the "Last Letter" volumes could be written from its vivid history. It makes manifest that the first duty of a patriot, be he soldier or civilian, is the respect and care due to parents, and that is due from the strong and weak. The man that raises himself or gets risen to position, influence and wealth, and contributes largely to the Church, to societies, to anything and everything, and build him a palatial residence, and otherwise spend lavishly for his own aggrandizement. And who neglects and contributes nothing willingly to the ones that cared for him when care was mostly required. When kindness and a proper return were looked for, nothing but dictatorial and arbitrary brutality, and a few pence thrown at them like a bone to a dog. Unfortunately there are many people of that kind utterly oblivious of the inconvenience and self-denial of those that placed them on the first step to prosperity and success. Such men are not soldiers, patriots, or citizens, in the fullest extent of the word. To be a traitor or renegade to the highest human virtues would place him on the same ground towards his country and his Maker.

Still looking at the picture—why not if we must have militia and munitions of war—utilize our army to some purpose. Instead of paying out large sums of money on men for mere ornamental purposes. Supply them with equipments for opening up roads through the wilder portions of our country for future traffic, for agricultural convenience and colonization. As brigades of engineers, sappers and miners, they could find employment for high explosives in removing rocks and building bridges, that would open the way for thousands of people that would otherwise not develop the back regions. They would then be serving a highly useful purpose, and the advantage to the country would more than equal the outlay for their maintenance, and it would in nowise unfit them for