

moral evils. To quote the words of an eminent peace-lover : ' Far from wishing to destroy the energy or even the combativeness which has made us such fit instruments for the battle-field, we [shall] require these qualities for abating the spirit of war and correcting the numberless moral evils from which society is suffering. Are not our people uneducated ? Juvenile delinquents uncared for ? Does not drunkenness still reel in our streets ? Have we not to battle with vice, crime, and their parent ignorance, in every form ? And may not even Charity display as great energy and courage in saving life, as was ever put forth in its destruction ? ' These words were uttered in 1853.

Much still remains to be done to fulfil that noble prophecy ; but so deeply have the principles of social reform been impressed upon the modern mind, and so strongly has it come to be felt that national greatness is based upon social justice and moral virtue, that our great military commanders find themselves forced to be preachers of ethics and reformers of social evils. The Tsar of Russia, aware of the injury wrought upon his army by intoxicants in the war with Japan, forbade all sale of spirit and of beer during the period of mobilization. The Government of Russia is still so far autocratic that such a decree could be issued and made effective in the interests of the army. And the Government having years ago assumed the perilous monopoly of the liquor traffic, such a sweeping law could only be made by Imperial order. No doubt it caused individual hardships and gave a shock to many prejudices and social customs. But the drinking habits of Russia were horrible and bade fair to demoralize the peasantry. Accordingly this decree issued in the interests of the army was found immediately to bring a great blessing