

solved in the near future if we are to enjoy the fruits of our national inheritance. There are, however, many people in this country who call black white, and white black, and designate every effort to improve the militia as "militarism." They stand on the brink of the future and shudder. They seem to think that any measure of self-defense is useless, and that in case of emergency would be crushed by a single blow. Therefore we should grow fat upon our land and let others cultivate virility and self-respect. "Militarism" is not applicable to Canada or to Great Britain or to any other nation which aims to protect itself and does not seek war for the sake of conquest. Even "militarism" as exemplified in Germany has its compensations. No other nation in the world can show the same record of progress within the same length of time that Germany can show. In education, in science, in commerce and industry, her people are utilizing their opportunities to the utmost, and all things considered, man for man, they are without equals among any other civilized race. Even war is not the worst thing that can happen a nation. If the teachings of history are to be considered it is not. Ruskin says:

"All the pure and noble arts of peace are founded on war; no great art ever rose on earth but among a nation of soldiers. . . . There is no great art possible to a nation but that which is based on battle. . . . When I tell you that war is the foundation of all the arts, I mean also that it is the foundation of all the high virtues and faculties of men. It is very strange to me to discover this; and very dreadful—but I say it to be quite an undeniable fact. The common notion that peace and the virtues of civil life flourish together, I found to be wholly untenable. Peace and the vices of civil life only flourish together. We talk of peace and learning, of peace and plenty, and of peace and civilization; but I found that those were not the words which the Muse of History coupled together; that, on her lips, the words were peace and sensuality, peace and selfishness, peace and death. I found, in brief, that all great nations learned their truth of word, and strength of thought, in war; taught by war, and deceived by peace; trained by war and betrayed by peace; in a word, that they were born in war, and expired in peace."

The foregoing has not been written in the spirit of pessimism, criticism or fault-finding; but with a view to stimulating thought and discussion. If any suggestion thrown out in the preceding paragraphs helps to widen the outlook and crystallize the thought of some young man or woman who is studying life's problems, the writer will be more than amply repaid.