

dividuality is lost and swallowed up in party. No wonder that such men bring disrepute upon the noble office of a people's representative. But such weaklings cannot hold the helm of state. It is the strong and courageous men who lead and guide the world both in politics and religion: such as Cromwell, Pitt, and Gladstone; Mahomet, Luther and Wesley. In reviewing the lives of men like these we see plainly illustrated the trite saying that "courage, combined with energy and perseverance will overcome difficulties apparently insurmountable." The habit of persevering in the right direction grows with time, and when steadily cherished rarely fails of its reward.

Courage is by no means incompatible with tenderness. The bravest of men may be the most tender. Sir Charles Napier, one of England's bravest sons, desisted from hunting because he could not bear to hurt dumb animals. The tenderness of women is often accompanied by exhibitions of the highest and truest courage; and though they are for the most part in the quiet recess of life, yet not a few cases of heroic action and endurance on their part have come to light. Many of our most distinguished men have acknowledged the success of an honorable career to their sustaining and ennobling influence; and the strength and purity of our best institutions, both social and religious, are due to the courage and constancy of noble women.

From what has been said, it is evident that courage is an essential element of character, and it should be our object to develop, if possible, this true courage. A wise man was accustomed to say that one of the principle objects he aimed at in educating his children was to train them in the habit of fearing nothing so much as fear. The habit of avoiding fear, of exercising courage, is no less susceptible of cultivation than that of diligence, attention, or cheerfulness.

NELVIL.

○ Correspondence. ○

LETTER FROM RICHMOND, VA.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—I know of nothing better to write you than of how Christmas is celebrated in the South, and of some of the points of attraction about Richmond. A Christmas day in the South is certainly an amusing one for those unacquainted with Southern customs. Here on this occasion might be seen subjects for an artists' sketch book, scenes in which the caricaturist would revel and the poet need not be at loss for a theme nor the minister for a text. Since the late war no attention has been given either to the celebration of the Fourth of July or the National Thanksgiving day. All public expression of hilarity is therefore reserved for Christmas. "From morn to noon, from noon to dewy eve" might be heard the roar of crackers, fire-arms and the blast of horns, attended by the ribaldrous song and carousal of those

who seek their Christmas pleasure in the wine cup or bury their cheer in egg-nog. Perhaps the most surprising and disgusting scene is the number of men, boys and women staggering through the streets. Young and old, maimed and blind, seem to regard Christmas as a day for licensed debauch.

The day of merry making being passed, I turned my attention to the many places of interest in and around Richmond; among which are the Cemeteries, the Capital Square, which contains monuments of Jackson, Clay, Washington and others, the Jeff Davis Mansion and the Monumental church, which was so-called, because it marks the sight of a theatre in the burning of which, Dec. 26, 1811, one hundred and twenty persons perished.

The morning following Christmas was, to use the favorite adjective of the South, *mighty* fine. I boarded the horse-car, or mule-car, to visit Hollywood Cemetery, which contains a monument to the 12000 Confederate dead which lie there. It was erected in 1869, by the Hollywood Memorial Association of patriotic women of Virginia. It is a pyramid of rough gray sandstone, rising to the height of ninety feet. On each face is inserted a polished block of stone, bearing one of the following inscriptions:—

"MEMORIA IN AETERNA,"

"TO THE CONFEDERATE DEAD,"

"NUMINI ET PATRIAE ASTO,"

"ERECTED BY THE HOLLYWOOD MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, 1869."

Vines are planted around the base of the monument, which will in time entirely cover it, when the effect will be greatly enhanced. Here also is the tomb of ex-President Monroe and the grave of ex-President Tyler. This cemetery contains 153 acres and is noted for the beauty of its scenery.

Through the cemetery extends a valley clothed with wide spreading oaks and other ornamental trees, and in it a brook flows quietly along. Beautiful Southern vines and weeping willows bend lowly over the carefully tended graves, covered with appropriate mementos. A little to the left is the historic James rushing and roaring over rocks and shoals forming a rich contrast with the calmness and solemnity of the bordering cemetery. A short distance away, in the river can be seen Bellisle upon which prisoners were placed for security during the late war.

Not the least interesting among Richmond's places of interest is Powhatan, an old plantation seat, rendered classic as being the place of the romantic rescue of John Smith by Pocahontas, and also as being the burial place of Powhatan. The boulder which marks the resting place of this Indian chief is enclosed by a dilapidated summer house adjoining what was once the mansion of the estate; but now the untrimmed hedges, the overgrowing shrubbery and unkept walks give but