

#### Plant Nut Trees.

If the farmer with an assortment of poor, scraggly, hillside land were to select three to five acres of it and plant nut trees thereon, seeing likewise that the young saplings were kept alive and cared for during the first period of their existence, in not many years his lean and unsightly hillside would be the most valuable portion of his ground. Nut food is becoming more and more popular every year. It has been found to take the place of both bread and meat to a considerable extent.

The hickory tree, the chestnut and many varieties of walnut will grow anywhere in the United States. The best chestnut is the Japan kind, as hardy as our own. The pecan will also grow in nearly every part of the country, although Texas is the banner state for this nut. In the south and southwest the almond and Persian walnut, mis-called the English walnut, flourish and bear abundantly.

Most ruralists plant shade trees about their grounds. Varieties of maple are popular for this purpose. But why do they not plant the magnificent, spreading chestnut tree? It will grow nearly as fast as the maple and will have a solid economic value every year generation after generation. Chestnuts in the city market are so high that few people can afford to buy them, although everybody is fond of them.

James, earl of Douglass, the "Black Douglass," one of Bruce's heroes in old Scottish days, said, excusing himself for never defending his ancestral castle, "I like better to hear the lark sing than to hear the mouse squeak." Admiral Cervera has put it in a new form: "Anyhow it is better to die with my ships at sea than to perish like a rat in a hole."

There has been a conflict between "red cross" and "red tape." The army surgeons have refused to accept a large supply of trained woman nurses offered to them. There was a similar clash in the earlier times of our civil war. But officialism yielded when the sanitary commission came to the front.

We can readily afford a laugh over the change of tone in more than one Thersites of the continental press. Our exploits at Santiago have caused a change of front. Don Whiskerando is "catching it" now instead of "Brother Jonathan." It is always well to be on the surely winning side.

It seems unfortunate that some of our retired army officers cannot be put on the active list again now that there are so many appointments making from the inexperience of civil life. A large ratio of these old soldiers are strong and in the prime of their usefulness, with years of military experience behind them. Is it not a question of politics as well as red tape?

#### Our True Ideal.

Mr. Bryce in his fine Fourth of July speech in London said: "The splendid deeds of heroism of your soldiers and sailors thrill our hearts as could no exploits of men in whose veins our blood did not run. America is possessed of the power to become a great conquering and colonizing people, but to make a great people happy, free and prosperous is nobler than any foreign conquest. Therefore we hope that nothing will divert the United States from that task." This pregnant utterance is worth weighing and pondering. Whether or not we enter on a career of territorial extension our pivotal interests are at home. If by foreign ambition we forget or fall short of a wise and effective regard to our internal greatness as a commonwealth no brilliancy of exploits, no aggrandizement of conquest will give recompense. The problem which the United States has so far worked out so successfully, that of combining the utmost individual freedom and opportunity with such skillfully adjusted restraints as preserve the needs of law and order, has been a model and a stimulus to the world. If we should ever be diverted from that sagacious study of the things which belong to this end by the mere cheats of ambition, it would be a sad day for us and for humanity at large.

It is not necessary to assume that the immediate profit of territorial gain and commercial influence, which seem likely now to accrue, will divert our attention from the ideals which are essential, but that there is always danger of diversion under such new conditions history has shown. To dazzle the national imagination is sometimes to blunt the national conscience and to blind the national common sense. There are many wise men and good patriots who fear that foreign conquest points in this direction. Others not less wise and good do not regard the danger as one to be counted in the conditions which are now converging, firm in the belief that our organic growth is vital in its health and power. The future alone can fully decide this question of political morals if we decide to plant the stars and stripes in distant lands. The advocates of territorial extension and a large part in the world's affairs are no less believers than their opponents in the importance of primary devotion to the great questions of the North American continent. It is to be hoped that this keen sense will prove an abiding safeguard whatever steps we may take to reap the war harvest ripe for the sickle.

#### About Being Resigned.

There are those who call by the name of Christian resignation what is in reality a most unchristian mental laziness. We are not creatures of a blind, cruel fate that is whirling and hurling us like footballs here and there. Thou-

sands of persons sit down in the ashes and let their neighbors or public charity feed and clothe them and theirs when they ought to bestir themselves and get food and raiment for themselves.

It is not the will of any providence of any kind that human beings should suffer and starve and be lumps of inertness. At the very time the resigned paupers are being fed by charity, public and private, the price of cotton for clothing was never so low, while America's chief bread grain, corn, is almost equally cheap.

It is well to put up with, for the time, that cheerfully, too, evil conditions and situations that we cannot immediately get out of, all the while steadfastly resolving that we will find a way out of them sooner or later. That state of mind, however, is altogether different from being willing to sit stupidly down and accept as permanent the unpleasant situation. Poverty in particular is something that no human being should be resigned to. There is plenty for all of us, and there is no virtue, neither religion, in being resigned to do without our just share of things.

There is a decided advantage to the victims of legal discipline on being made peers. An English creditor recently tried to obtain an order for imprisonment against a recalcitrant judgment debtor, and the magistrate refused on the ground that the party had been raised to the peerage since judgment had been given.

The parsimonious folly of congress in its refusal to heed the reiterated demands of the war department for smokeless powder has been well demonstrated by land and sea. Our parochial legislators, it is to be hoped, will now learn this as well as some other lessons by bitter experience.

Admiral Dewey has been dignified with the degree of master of military science by Norwich university. The degree is somewhat unique, but a vast deal more sensible than that of LL. D., which he has received from other universities.

A political crank has already come to the front with a nomination of Admiral Dewey as candidate for the next presidency. We can fancy the gallant old sea dog hearing of this with a burst of laughter. He is the last kind of man to have such a bee buzzing in his cocked hat. It would be a little odd if such a promotion should occur. For the first time a president would have been shot out of a ship's gun into the White House.

The bicycle lunatics appear to be on the increase. A large party recently started from Brooklyn to do 300 miles in two days. Result, nine-tenths of them were seriously disabled and some probably permanently injured.