

who have no regimental colors and no emblazoned role of glory.

THE ANGEL OF MERCY. It was not long before that hovel with its load of misery began to soften its more glaring and gaping horrors. A blanket was thrown over the disjecta membra, and blankets somehow crept under and over the men. The importunate tone of the sufferers fell, as if bandages got upon their words as well as upon their wounds. I shall never forget the sensation as a tin cup of iced water was held to my lips. Its coolness and *quenchness* (pardon that homely term for it) were somehow related in my mind to the woman herself, and I never afterwards encountered one of those hospital nurses without that association of her with a cool and healing draught.

A great many of these nurses were Christian women, whose great propulsion through blood and fire was the unuttered desire to do their Master's work. Under Sherman's command many of them were hooded Sisters, he having early in the conflict, before the Sanitary Commission organized its superb work, encountered another kind of woman, who wrote letters of complaint to the newspapers and was annoyingly garrulous and officious. But these Sisters never complained; never in any extremity of deprivation, or violence, or mismanagement overstepped the taciturn discretion and steadfast routine of mercy they had set for themselves. But of whatever sect, those of them who professed a religion of love had their relapses at time, when the feminine fibre gave way in secret and they poured their hearts out in unavailing tears at the pity of it all. Only the finest organization is entitled to enter the lists of these living martyrs, and it is only the finest organization that must bear through it all the crown of thorns in her heart.

I said to one of these women afterwards at the Mound City Hospital, "How do you stand it?" and she answered, "Oh, we go away and pray and weep where nobody can see us but God." Thus they were invisibly panoplied.

THE BLIND HORROR OF WAR. I meant to have told how in my second hospital experience, when the angel of mercy was reaching down into a torn and scarcely recognizable mass of humanity for the spark of consciousness that remained, a shell burst through the roof and obliterated both the nurse and the patient, and how, for a moment, those of us who escaped and crawled out of the added wreck had one common thought, which was that those inhuman energies that man sets in motion smite at times with indiscriminate irony all the puny efforts that man brings up afterwards to remedy and correct.

But what is the use? When man

resorts to brute force to demonstrate his higher virtues, or to convince his fellow-man, he summons agencies whose vast virulence he can boast of, but whose effects upon the individual he dare not write about.

Once the hospital was set on fire. Everything favored its burning before we could drag the mutilated but living bodies out. It was old and dry, and festooned with bunches of inflammable hay high up among its rafters. The surgeons' instruments were scattered. Mercy itself seemed to receive a sudden interdict and resolve itself into a frenzy of desperate fear. And always at the best of times the provisions of mercy were not as effective as the prompt and thundering provisions of what was meant to be justice. I recall that there was always something missing in the sudden emergency until those commission wagons came to the rescue. And by and by they grew to be part of the system. They were woman's contribution to the war, and woman generally came with them. How much heroism and patience and fortitude she lent to the struggle, coming like a benison to offset physical failure with moral strength, has hardly been told in the official records. Why should it be? War, for the most part, deals with what has been called, with true mediæval brutality, "iron and blood."

J. P. M.

WHAT HISTORY SHOWS.

China, paper money unredeemed	\$ 644,135,500
France, by her assignats	9,000,000,000
The Continental Congress and States	451,000,000
The Southern Confederacy about	1,000,000,000
Argentina, to 1896	155,841,000

Absolute loss to the people, \$11,250,976,500
Besides untold millions of unredeemed bank notes.

MORAL: Unsecured or "fiat money" is *dishonest money, and a fraud upon the public.*

The biographies of the thoughtful working men and women who, wisely industrious, lay the foundations of a commonwealth make a complete history of the state.

ASIATIC COMMERCE A DELUSION. An open port in the Philippines would, it is urged, give our exporters a fulcrum for obtaining immense benefits from the Asiatic trade, says Worthington C. Ford in the September Atlantic. In support of this view the experience of the English in Hong Kong is accepted as conclusive. The plea is on its face a promising one.

The value of imports into China from Hong Kong has nearly trebled since 1881, and the same rate of increase has held for exports from China to the free port. The transactions of Japan with Hong Kong have nearly doubled, and are increasing each year at a rapid rate. So far, the record is clear, and points to

the advantages of a free or open port. No light is thrown on the principal point to be determined: How far has England, or the United States, or Germany benefited by this increase?

The exports of British goods to this Asiatic port have fallen off in value by one-half since 1881, and the imports by one-third. The entire trade forms but a very small item in the total movement of England's foreign commerce. The United States might be looked upon as somewhat more favored than the United Kingdom in its trade relations with the East, but it has not derived material benefit from this development of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong figures in the total trade of the United States for less than four-tenths of one per cent—a proportion hardly worth considering. Even Germany, with its restless and pushing commercial policy, passes over Hong Kong, and seeks to build up its interests in China itself, with only partial success. In the face of such a showing, covering a series of years marked by an almost phenomenal increase in the world's commerce, it is difficult to accept the theory of a free port in the Philippines as an agency to increase the importance of the United States in the East. Asia is feeding Asiatic trade, and will continue to do so without respect to any outside agency. Asia must cease to be Asia before the West can participate in its development.

If by some gigantic calamity, capital be stricken out of the world, the mental and moral machinery of mankind will be dashed to pieces and all civilization thrown off the track.

[From Chicago Times-Herald, August 25.]

TEACHING THE USES OF BANKS. By far the most interesting feature of the meeting of the American Bankers' Association at Denver was the report of "the committee on uses of banks." This committee undertook some time ago to distribute information as to the uses of banks in order to overcome the ignorance concerning banks and to remove the prejudice that exists against them.

The wonder is that the bankers of the country did not inaugurate a concerted movement of this kind long ago. That there is a prejudice among the wage-earning classes, amounting in some sections to uncompromising hostility, against banks is admitted by all who keep in touch with the sentiments and thoughts of these people.

The populists are not the only ones who believe that the banks are a form of legalized plunder organized under government protection for enriching the few at the expense of the many.

Strange to say there has been little organized effort in the past on the part of the bankers to combat this growing prejudice through education of the people regarding the exact functions of the