

**BENEFACTORS VERSUS HEROES.**

The martial spirit has been so developed and praised in the United States that corpse-making—upon those international battlefields which modern civilization deluges in blood for the sake of Christianity—is, by many, considered the highest evolution of moral and mental excellence. The killing of an individual in a duel is called murder. But the killing of thousands in the international duellos called war is glory and renown. To destroy life upon the field of carnage is benevolent assimilation. But to provide for the prolongation of life by tilling the fertile fields of the farms of the United States is rustic obscurity and rural inutility.

McCormick and his reaper were a benefaction to all the hungry humanity of the globe. But McCormick is not applauded as were Gatling and his gun with which death reaps and garners great armies in the grave. The hero uses the gun. The benefactor runs the wheat-gathering machine. The former is praised by the multitude who love contention and blood-letting whether there be or be not bread for the famishing.

Edison is a benefactor. His genius has blessed mankind with its products of invention. He is an illustrious example of the constructive in civilization. But how many receptions, how much of laudation has Edison as compared to Schley or Dewey? These game and gallant gentlemen represent the destructive element in civilization. Those most adept as destructionists command more popular acclaim than those who, with unlimited constructive energy and genius, have invented the foremost labor-saving machinery of modern times.

Robert Fulton is not mentioned once where Napoleon is biographed a hundred times.

The discoverer of anæsthetics to alleviate suffering and mitigate human agony is almost unknown. But the man who invented the rapid-firing gun to facilitate the infliction of pain and death is a familiar with the masses.

Professor Morse, whose telegraphy finally enabled the continents and islands of the globe to whisper to each other under the untamed waves of seas and oceans is not in the race for the prize of mankind's praise with the inventors of iron-clad ships, smokeless powder and ten-mile firing cannon.

Those who can best provide for killing off men, are, if successful in slaughtering enemies, exalted far above those who have founded asylums and hospitals for the indigent, the sick and the incurable.

As between the hero and the benefactor the most men side with and run to the former.

Howard and Peabody, and Baron and Baroness Hirsch, and Montefiore are, notwithstanding their incalculable be-

quests to philanthropy, almost forgotten, while the names of Wellington, Napoleon and hundreds of other military chieftains blaze in history with ever-increasing incandescence.

**WAS AND IS.**

The politicians who are everlastingly talking of dead statecraft, dead conditions and dead statesmen and asking the Present to be guided and controlled by them are lacking in thinking and reasoning powers. If man makes no mental or moral advancement, ascends no intellectual elevation, then that which *is* today, *was* yesterday, and will continue forever.

New and alive questions require new and alive statesmen for their solution. The thoughts of our ancestors were evolved from their conditions, ambitions, hopes and reasonings. They were better adapted to their needs than to ours. We are; they were.

**LAWYERS.**

The Omaha Daily Bee of June 12, contains an article copied from the Nebraska Independent, which is the accredited advocate of populism in Nebraska, very severely derogatory to lawyers in general and especially severe upon Nebraska lawyers in particular.

The first paragraph from the Independent's excoriation of lawyers is:

"This country has raised up a breed of lawyers that have been an unmitigated curse to the whole land. In their practice they have abandoned all the principles of the common law and in their lives been guided by no principle of morality known to Christian nations. Big fees, regardless of how or in whose service they were obtained, have been the only object sought after."

Is that true? If it is true does it not follow that the people of this country like that breed?

Who is to blame; the people who will not discriminate between make-believe lawyers and real lawyers; who will not consider character and acquirements, good name and ability, or the better and higher grade of lawyers themselves?

The Bee commenting upon the wholesale calumny of the legal profession remarks:

"Our populist contemporary has hit the nail squarely on the head. The lawyers ought to take a back seat for a while and let the farmers, merchants, mechanics and other producers have a voice in the affairs of government.

"But reform should have been begun long ago by the reformers. Yet what have they done? Up to date they have injected more lawyers into office in Nebraska than any of the old parties.

"With the exception of Kem every man elected by them to represent Nebraska in congress has been a lawyer. Senator Allen was a lawyer. So are Holcomb, Neville, the Harringtons and

nearly all the lesser and bigger popocratic lights, including William J. Bryan.

"If the policy of retiring lawyers to the rear advocated by the Independent is to be adopted, new blood will have to be infused among the leadership of the reform forces."

With perhaps one or two exceptions the gentlemen enumerated by the Bee as lawyers could be cleared of the charge in almost any court in Nebraska. Some of them could easily and successfully challenge the Bee to show wherein they have ever been practicing attorneys. They may have had now and then a cause in the lower courts. But there has been nothing like a periodicity in their appearance before the bar of justice with clients in whose behalf they were about to exercise their minds and legal lore. They may have had sporadically a client here and there but their practice has never been epidemic. And if all lawyers were shut out from heaven, by St. Peter at the golden gates, most of the gentlemen named by the Bee would be let in on the ground that they were not enough lawyers to hurt—lawyers only in name but not in fame.

**ME TOO.**

On a thousand voices comes to us the exhortation, that we also of America should do the great things that other peoples have done, in foreign overflow and extension of our blessings through the distant world. For our own private part we have often been so moved by these glowing representations, of waxing greatness and benefit to mankind, that we have shaken ourselves from time to time, to see whether we were well awake, or something had stolen a march and left us far behind. Then, duly accustomed long of old to find ourselves but erring mortals, we have faced the expansionist positions set before us, by all the light they could offer. The results are imparted to our readers; and we find a curious tendency, of one same principle to reappear in many forms.

In the last Forum a well-known writer presents a "Side Issue of Expansion," being that of the character likely to be developed by colonial government, among the officers who will have charge of it. A few years ago he had met a fine young Englishman, who at first conveyed only a general impression of upper class, but proved to be a colonial ruler, of immense executive power and virtue, lifting swarthy millions to a higher plane; with an intimation, that the like are almost as blackberries on the British soil. If there were only such a class of young Americans! Of course potentially there may be; but they lack opportunity—that is colonies; for observe—"Our political life is so foul-mouthed and grimy, that few who are not already foul-mouthed and grimy care to enter it." But even while the