

courage of their convictions, and to show themselves willing to avow their belief.

Analogous to this action of the Universalist young people is a recent address delivered before a number of soldiers at Fort Meyer, Virginia, by Rev. Tennis S. Hamlin, the well known Presbyterian clergyman of Washington, D. C., on the question of the canteen. We quote the report of his remarks from the New York Times:

"I am a trustee of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, but speak now as an individual, as the society is not allowed to interfere with anything pertaining to governmental regulations. No doubt some members of the society are opposed to the canteen and some are in favor of it. I believe the canteen is a promoter of temperance, and, while it does not promote total abstinence, it is a great improvement over previous conditions. I do not think the canteen is perfect, and I think I could improve upon it. It has improved the conditions of the soldier, morally and materially. Under existing conditions at army posts I believe the canteen is a good thing and a great benefit to soldiers."

Almost simultaneous with this address is published in Leslie's Weekly an article on the canteen question by an ex-member of the cabinet. He defends the legal opinion of the attorney general that the act of 1899 does not abolish the canteen, but simply prohibits the detailing of officers and soldiers to do the selling and the maintenance of separate establishments within the posts by private enterprise; he shows that the attorney general might be incorrect in this judgment and yet not be justly subject to the censure which the "temperance wild men," as Dr. Crosby once felicitously called them, have heaped upon him: "Courts frequently decide cases erroneously and their decisions are reversed by appellate courts." He believes that the attorney general's decision is not only presumptively good law, since "no judge or member of the bar of reputation has come forward to challenge its correctness," but is good morals also. He says very truly: "It is probable that a majority of the people of the country, including almost every officer of the regular and volunteer army, believe that the entire abolition of the canteen features of the post exchanges would be a direct blow at the cause of temperance." We call these utterances indications of a return to sane methods of dealing with the temperance question, not because we think all opposition to the canteen or all advocacy of prohibition is insane, but because the spirit which condemns all advocacy of the canteen as advocacy of intemperance and counts every opponent of prohibition as an enemy of temperance is decidedly lacking in sanity, and the spirit which submits to such misrepresentations and is silent for fear

of them is lacking in that courage which is itself a characteristic of the highest moral sanity. When common sense and courage are mated in opposition to intemperance there will be a reasonable hope of more practical methods and more rapid progress than in the past. These utterances are indications of such a union.—The Outlook.

THE NATIONS AND THE ISSUE.

Long ago it was known and said an army cannot be well commanded by a debating society, and it is now becoming apparent in China that the command is even less effective when intrusted to an international council. The powers that meddled with China in time of peace are now muddling in time of war. The "concert of Europe" is seemingly no better fitted to contend against Asiatic zeal at the beginning of the twentieth century than it was in the days of the crusades.

For weeks the powers have been massing troops at Tientsin, but after the first abortive attempt under Admiral Seymour have made no effort to relieve the legations and their Christian supporters at Peking. In fact, according to a recent dispatch from Admiral Remy, the international column will not begin its advance before the middle of August.

It is said that among the officials at Washington opinions differ as to the cause of the delay. According to one opinion the foreigners in Peking have been already massacred and there is therefore no reason for haste in beginning the campaign. According to the other there is so much friction among the commanding officers that no agreement can be reached as to what action should be taken. Our government, it is said, has repeatedly urged a vigorous forward movement, and the Japanese are said to have offered to send at once an army corps to back it up, but the urging has been in vain. The officers of the other powers have decided to wait until "the roads are in better condition."

Of course, the advantages that will accrue to the allies by waiting until they have larger forces and the roads are better, will be many, but the same delay will give the Boxers time to strengthen their positions and increase their forces, and to that extent the advantages will be offset. Consequently it is very likely the determination to postpone an advance movement has been largely due to friction among the commanders. Late accounts of the attack on Tientsin attribute the heavy loss of the Americans to a mistake of orders, and the mistake occurred in the transmission of the orders from General Durdward, the British commander, to Colonel Liscum. Now, if a blunder so costly can occur between officers of such rank, who speak the same language and have a hundred reasons for affiliating with one another in a foreign land, what is to

happen when the French are giving orders to the Germans or the Russians giving orders to the Japs?

Another reason for believing in the theory of friction at Tientsin, is the confusion that exists among European diplomatists and statesmen on the subject. The confusion is so great that up to this time no nation has felt itself at liberty to "recognize a state of war." The Chinese have actually invaded Russia, and the Russian government has given the Chinese minister his passports, but as yet war has not been declared. It is up to this time nothing more than a free fight, and a struggle for loot. There being no war, there is no contraband law in force and accordingly any one who wishes to get rich by selling arms and ammunition to the Boxers has a right to do so.

The concert of Europe is in need of a leader. There is only one man of sufficient rank to take command without exciting jealousies, and that is Kaiser William. He has frequently proclaimed himself a war lord, and now is the time for him to get to the front.—San Francisco Call.

THE GIRL AND HER VOCATION.

"Every girl, no matter what her station or prospects, should acquire some useful art or profession, should learn to do some one thing so well that it shall have a value in the great world-market, and in her hour of need suffice to make her a bread-winner," writes Margaret E. Sangster, in the August Ladies' Home Journal. "The world has an abundance of mediocre workers, but it can never have a superfluity of those who have added to native endowment discipline and conscientious training. Probably the best gift which could be bestowed on most girls in any station or occupation would be what on the turf is known as the staying power. Many of us begin with enthusiasm, but we give out before the end of the day. To adopt a line of conduct, to choose a special study, or to decide on a course and stick to it, is in each case to deserve success, if not always to insure it. The path of life is strewn with the wrecks of those who began but did not hold on their way. She who would make her mark in this workaday world, and gain her prize, must be steady and persevering in the face of every discouragement, with belief in herself and in God."—Ladies' Home Journal.

At the recent republican national convention in Philadelphia, delegates and visitors were agreeably surprised to find a Burlington Route fan in every seat. This bit of thoughtfulness on the part of a western railroad, a thousand miles distant from the quaker city, was widely commented upon by the eastern newspapers.