

is evident that the progress of civilization will be dangerously retarded unless the great barriers in its way be removed. And, too, it cannot attain its highest destiny until it is cleansed of some of the elements that are growing up within it.

While most of the superstitions delusions, and savage customs of the past have fled before the light of modern intelligence, still nations persist in maintaining their authority by fire and sword. Thus in every age and clime, homes are desolated, flourishing cities laid in ruins, and millions of lives sacrificed in settling affairs that could far better be peacefully adjusted without this fearful cost! And even in times of peace, nearly all nations keep standing armies that accomplish but little more than to consume the hard earnings of toil, and foster the direful spirit of war. There is no reason that an intelligent world in this nineteenth century, the golden age of wisdom, should waste more than twelve hundred millions annually to carry on a work of destruction, or to maintain institutions that are sapping the very foundations of industry! Furthermore, as we view with admiration the unbounded triumphs of mind over matter in producing implements to facilitate the labor of man, how appalling it is to observe the amount of intellect and capital that is also devoted to the invention of implements of destruction. Had the soldiers at the famous battle of Gettysburg been equipped with the improved arms of to-day, that irreparable loss in slain might have been even ten times greater! And yet will nations continue to encourage such enterprises?

This hostile tendency that keeps the elements of the human race arrayed in mortal combat, must give way to something higher and nobler before civil prosperity can become perpetual.

Illiteracy is another obstruction whose alarming effects are seen in all countries. For most of the internal feuds, domestic outbreaks and political dissensions have their origin in this cause.

A people in bondage cannot progress, but freedom and ignorance cannot exist together. While America has practically demonstrated the grand truth that man is capable of self-government, her experience has also proven that self-government can only be maintained through the universal education of the people. Hence to insure the permanency of a higher civilization the means of intellectual and moral culture should be extended to every land and every home throughout the earth.

Also as the times advance, there is an increasing necessity for the more perfect freedom of thought, tongue and pen. To be free to think as well as to act is an inestimable privilege. The human mind has suffered long enough from the rigid exactions of conformity. Persecution has sacrificed its share of martyrs. No superstitious creed should be tolerated that cannot stand in the unerring light of reason.

Judging, then, from these data all that is necessary, to render the future secure, is that the infinite potency of genius be directed in the right channel, not blindly forging its own shackles, not devising means of havoc and destruction, but advancing the cause of universal liberty, development and progress. When the world recognizes this principle, nations will become reconciled to each other. Yes, though speaking different languages and inhabiting remote lands all would be but one people striving for the same lofty object, the welfare of the whole.

Then, should this be the issue, gazing farther into the regions of sublime possibility, how dazzling would be the visions of man's future career! For the boundless stores of nature are rich in treasures for his aggrandizement, and the mightiest achievements of the present are only leading the way to undiscovered oceans of truth beyond.

Already mankind is rousing from the slumber of submission; and tyranny flies in fear. The power of oppression on