

for this new world, as an example for America, and declares that Germany's course in regard to foreign affairs "offers an excellent lesson to us here." He would have us believe that "the strenuous life" can be developed and manifested far better upon the battlefield than in the workshops of our land or upon its farms or within the four walls of domestic privacy. To the dove bearing the olive branch of peace, he prefers the vulture feeding upon human carcasses on the field of battle. At the altar of the god Mars he worships far more than at the cradle of the Prince of Peace.

But what do the world's greatest word-painters and character-artists think of the doctrine that peace is demoralizing and war ennobling? What sort of portrait do they draw of one who glorifies war and defames peace? Let some of them fill in the picture.

The immortal Channing was one of the noblest Americans that ever lived. It was well said of him by one who knew him well that "he had the love of wisdom and the wisdom of love." Channing said: "Away, then, with the argument that war is needed as a nursery of heroism. The school of the peaceful Redeemer is infinitely more adapted to teach the nobler, as well as the milder, virtues which adorn humanity."

That eminent American statesman, Charles Sumner, rightly says: "War crushes with bloody heel all beneficence, all happiness, all justice, all that is Godlike in man—suspending every commandment of the decalogue, setting at naught every principle of the Gospel, and silencing all law, human as well as divine, except only that impious code of its own, the laws of war. \* \* \* War is utterly and irreconcilably inconsistent with true greatness. Thus far, man has worshiped in military glory a phantom idol compared with which the colossal images of ancient Babylon or modern Hindustan are but toys, and we, in this favored land of freedom, in this blessed day of light, are among the idolaters."

Says that able English historian, Thomas Henry Buckley; "In perfectly barbarous countries there are no intellectual acquisitions; and the

mind being a blank and dreary waste, the only resource is external activity, the only merit personal courage. No account is made of any man, unless he has killed an enemy; and the more he has killed the greater the reputation he enjoys. This is the purely savage state; and it is the state in which military glory is most esteemed and military men most respected. From this frightful debasement, even up to the summit of civilization, there is a long series of consecutive steps; gradations, at each of which something is taken from the dominion of force and something is given to the authority of thought."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is perhaps not the greatest of American poets, but he is in all probability the best beloved, the one in closest touch with the common people. What lines does he draw in this picture? He says:

Were half the power that fills the world  
with terror,  
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps  
and courts,  
Given to redeem the human mind from  
error,  
There were no need of arsenals or forts.  
The warrior's name would be a name ab-  
horred!  
And every nation that should lift again  
its hand against a brother, on its forehead  
Would wear forevermore the curse of  
Cain!

Plato, the greatest of Grecian thinkers and writers, adds his clear-cut lines to this portrayal. Enumerating the different kinds of blasphemy, he says: "The third kind of blasphemy is that of men attempting to propitiate the gods towards criminal conduct, as slaughters and outrages upon justice, by prayers, thanksgivings and sacrifices—thus making those pure beings the accomplices of their crimes by sharing with them a small portion of the spoil, as the wolves do with the dogs."

Let the last touches be given to this picture by the first of Greek poets, Homer, who, in the ninth book of the Iliad, says, in the most intense lines:

Cursed is the man, and void of law and  
right,  
Unworthy property, unworthy light,  
Unfit for public rule or private care—  
That wretch, that monster, who delights  
in war.

Americans, how do you like the portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, col-

ored by Channing, Sumner, Buckle, Longfellow, Plato and Homer, but drawn by himself?

Minneapolis.

S. W. SAMPLE.

## NEWS

There is at this writing a probability of a settlement of the coal miners' strike in the anthracite region.

The delegate convention of the strikers, announced in these columns last week, met at Scranton on the 12th with 857 delegates present, each representing 100 strikers. It was declared by President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, to be without exception the greatest meeting of labor delegates ever held in America. Mr. Mitchell called the convention to order. He complimented the delegates for the good order that had been preserved during the strike, saying that violations of law had been few in number, and that in connection with these, more overt acts had been committed by those whose duty it was to enforce the law than by strikers. Following this line of thought, he admonished the convention that "labor organizations have no greater enemies than the thoughtless strikers who violate the law or permit themselves to be provoked into the commission of crime." He added that "it frequently occurs in time of strikes that employers provoke strikers into violations of the law, with the hope and the expectation that public sentiment will be arrayed against the strike, and the military arm of the state can be secured to curb the men and defeat the objects for which the strike was instituted." His final remarks upon this subject were:

Whatever may be your decision here to-day, whether you end or continue the strike, it is my earnest hope that every man may regard it as his duty not only to obey but to assist in enforcing the law.

As to the purposes of the convention, he said:

For the first time in many years the operators have recognized your demands for better conditions of employment, and have offered an advance of ten per cent. in your wages. I am well aware that this advance is not satisfactory to you. You have felt, and with justice, that a definite period of time should be named during which this advance should remain in force. Your experience where wages are based on a sliding scale has been so unsatisfac-

tory to you that you believe that the sliding scale method of determining wages should be abolished; you also believe that the laws of Pennsylvania should be obeyed by the coal companies and wages be paid twice each month, you reserving the right of spending your earnings wherever you choose. Whether it is believed wise at this time to insist upon a compliance with all your demands is a question which you who are most interested are called upon to decide. Personally, I have hoped that we should be able at some time to establish the same method of adjusting wage differences as now exists in the bituminous coal regions, where employers and miners' delegates meet in joint interstate convention and, like prudent, sensible business men, mutually agree upon a scale of wages which remains in force for one year, thus removing the causes of strikes and lockouts, and even yet I believe that in future years the anthracite operators will accept this humane and progressive method of treating with their employes.

No business was done by the convention until the 13th. In the morning of that day it appointed a committee on resolutions which reported in the afternoon. The report was so moderate that the convention discussed it with considerable acrimony for an hour and a half; but it was finally adopted, thereby carrying the following resolutions as the decision of the convention:

"Whereas, The anthracite coal operators have posted notices offering an advance of ten per cent. over wages formerly paid and have signified their willingness to adjust their grievances with their employes;

Whereas, They have failed to specify the length of time this advance would remain in force, and have also failed to abolish the sliding scale method of determining wages; we would recommend:

That this convention accept an advance of ten per cent., provided the operators will continue its payment until April 1, 1901, and will abolish the sliding scale in the Lehigh and Schuylkill regions; the scale of wages in the two last-named districts to remain stationary at ten per cent. above the present basis price; and that the companies will agree to adjust other grievances complained of with committees of their own employes.

Should this proposition be unacceptable to the operators, we recommend that the convention propose that all questions at issue be submitted to a fair and impartial board of arbitration.

We would further recommend that under no circumstances whatever should there be a resumption of work at any of the collieries until the op-

erators signify their acceptance of this proposition and you are notified officially that the strike is ended, and all return to work in a body on the same day.

These resolutions were mailed to all the coal companies and individual operators, and in consequence a secret conference of operators and railway companies was held at Philadelphia on the 17th. It resulted in an agreement to accede to the demands of the Scranton convention. Conformably to this agreement the Philadelphia & Reading Coal company has already issued, and the other companies are expected to issue, a statement to the effect that the operation of the sliding scale will be suspended, that ten per cent advance on September wages will be paid till April 1, 1901 and thereafter until further notice, and that the company will take up with its mine employes any grievances which they may have.

A collision was avoided on the 15th by the compliance of the strikers with the request of President Mitchell that they refrain from allowing themselves to be provoked into any disturbance. On that day a large procession of men, women and girls started upon the highway from McAdoo, gathering strength as they marched, their objective point being the mines of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company in the Panther Creek district, which have been in operation throughout the strike. It was their declared intention to solicit the miners at that point to join the strike. But they were met upon the road at Coaldale by a large body of militia, which drove them back at the point of the bayonet. No lawless act had been committed or threatened by the people who were thus subjected to military authority.

In American politics the great event of the week and thus far of the presidential campaign is the reception to William J. Bryan in New York city. It is reported, even by the opposition press, as the most enthusiastic direct popular tribute that any presidential candidate ever before received. Mr. Bryan arrived in New York on the 16th, Mayor Jones, of Toledo, being in his traveling party. He was banqueted at the Hoffman house early in the evening; and made his first speech at Madison Square garden, the scene of his initial speech "in the enemy's country" four

years ago. The vast hall was packed, fully 20,000 people having crowded within its walls. Edward M. Sheppard, a prominent gold democrat in 1896, but equally prominent anti-imperialist now, was the chairman of this meeting. Mr. Bryan's speech held the great audience attentive for an hour. He met every question with the candor so rare with political candidates, but so characteristic of him. Neither the money question nor the ice trust question was blinked. He dwelt, however, upon the paramount issue of imperialism. Upon closing his speech inside the hall Mr. Bryan spoke to another audience of enormous size which had assembled in Madison square under the chairmanship of John W. Keller. He was then driven through streets lined with scores of thousands of cheering people to Tammany hall, where a third audience which filled the auditorium greeted him. His fourth speech was delivered at Cooper Union at ten o'clock at night to an audience that gave him the most enthusiastic greeting ever accorded to any one man in that old room where Abraham Lincoln made his first appearance before an eastern audience. Ex-Congressman John DeWitt Warner, one of the six congressmen who voted for the single tax bill as a substitute for the income tax, and who opposed Bryan in 1896 on economic grounds, but supports him now on anti-imperial grounds, presided here; and Mr. Bryan in this final speech for the day closed by saying: "I want this nation to stand before the world as the great moral factor in the world's progress." Upon returning to his hotel Mr. Bryan was so closely pressed by the immense crowds that thronged the streets as to make his progress almost impossible. On the 17th he began a four-day trip through the state.

In a proclamation issued this week to the democratic clubs and committees of the United States, William R. Hearst, the president, calls for a trans-continental democratic demonstration on the 27th. Mr. Bryan is on that day to deliver a final address in New York under the auspices of the National Association of Democratic Clubs, and concurrently every democratic club in the country is to hold public meetings, at which measures are to be taken to man the polls on election day for the purpose of getting out the voters and of securing an honest vote.