

The New Edition of the "FORGET NOT THY MOTHER" is now published by Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, No. 25 NASSAU ST. N. Y.



"FORGET NOT THY MOTHER."

Oh, thou upon whose bosom dear,
My infant head reposed,
Oh, thou whose lips with kiss sincere,
My weary eyelids closed,
Though many a rising sun has set,
Since last I met thy view,
Oh, never shall my heart forget
What to thy love is due.
Think not, my mother, I can cease
To love my home and thee,
Think not my hours are hours of peace,
Like those of infancy,
Alas! those moments sweet are gone—
Those halcyon hours are fled,
And on the world's cold heart alone
I bloom now my head.
Mother, the world perhaps will say
That I am wholly wrong,
To write to thee a simple lay,
Or chaunt a rustic song,
They'll say I court a childish muse,
Or wake an idle strain,
And will, to hear my lay, refrain
With proud and cold disdain.
And be it so, if gratitude
For kind maternal care,
May be to childish joy construed,
Or seem an idle prayer,
Then take, ye Gods! this manly heart,
Ye planted in my breast—
Take, take it hence! and one impart,
With childish feelings blest'd.

BOSTON HARB.

POLITICAL.

FROM THE WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN.

NATIONAL POLICY.

The happiness of a nation depends on its freedom, security and prosperity; and these again on its constitutional government, its position, including its physical capacity, and its policy. The two first of these means of happiness, we possess in an eminent degree. We may well be proud of the government under which we live, and the land which we inhabit; but let us never forget that we owe these to the wisdom and valor of our ancestors; and that the debt of gratitude which they have imposed on us can only be repaid by developing these means of happiness to their full extent, by a wise course of national policy. What this course of policy ought to be, we shall now proceed to point out; in which we shall study the utmost brevity.

National security and wealth are the immediate objects of national policy; but it is manifest that the means by which these can best be obtained must depend, in a great degree, on those circumstances in our relations, to which we referred in our last number; and which we showed were so very peculiar in their character that we could, in our policy, experience but little light from the history of other nations. Keeping then these circumstances in view, we propose now to consider the means by which the security and wealth of the country will be best promoted, beginning with the former.

In considering the means of defending our country, the military establishment necessarily occupies a prominent place; not simply on account of its importance, but from the diversity of opinions which are entertained in relation to it. On the one side, it is admitted that a large standing army in time of peace is dangerous to liberty; while, on the other, it seems equally clear, that a standing force, to some extent, is indispensable; and we, accordingly, find, although there have been many propositions to reduce the army, there has not yet appeared in Congress any one so visionary, as to propose to disband it wholly. It will readily be perceived that, among different persons, there will be great diversity of opinion in relation to the extent of the military establishment, as their attention is directed either towards its supposed dangerous tendency in relation to liberty, or its essential connection with the defence of the country; and that it is not to be expected that any proposition in regard to the number of our regular force would command unanimous assent. But we are of opinion that there are certain general propositions in relation to which every rational politician will agree. The most prominent advocate for a standing force would, we presume, assent to the pro-

position that it ought to be as small as is compatible with the permanent security of the country; and, on the contrary, those who have the greatest apprehension, will, as readily, assent, that every species of means ought to be adopted, by which its numbers may be reduced, without impairing the public security; how this may be effected we shall now proceed to consider.

It will first be proper, in order to come to a satisfactory determination on the proposition to be discussed, to consider what are the causes which render a standing army necessary in time of peace. War has become a regular and complicated science; to attain perfection in which, a thorough knowledge of most of the exact and physical sciences are necessary. To gain a thorough knowledge of this difficult and complicated science, it is necessary that it should be made a profession; to the acquisition of which, the whole time and attention of those engaged in it must be devoted. To neglect the acquisition of this profession would be to place the public security in jeopardy,—and as it can only be acquired by maintaining a regular force, all nations, however jealous of their liberty, have been compelled, since this great improvement in the art of war, to maintain a regular force more or less expensive.

It must be obvious, on a little reflection, that, as the necessity for a standing army, results in a great measure from the improvement in the art of war, military establishments will be more or less efficient as they are more or less perfect; and that by increasing their perfection we may diminish their numbers, without hazard to the public security. It becomes then an object of importance to render the establishment as perfect as possible; in order that its extent may be diminished consistently with the great object for which it is maintained. This may be effected in two modes. The first by rendering the organization, both of the staff and line, as complete as possible; and the next, by infusing into the establishment the greatest possible degree of science. In relation to the former, it is important that the peace organization should be as complete as the war; differing from it only in the extent; so that, in making a transition from a state of peace to that of war, the only change that may be necessary would be an enlargement of the establishment. This is the great and prevailing idea that extends equally to the line and the staff, by means of which so dangerous a transition may be made with rapidity and safety; giving that enlargement to a small standing force, which would prepare the country to meet the greatest exigencies of war.

No less important than a good organization, is the necessity of infusing into the army the greatest possible degree of science. In fact, to cultivate and to enlarge this science, constitutes, as we have already shown, the great necessity of maintaining a standing force at all; and it must be manifest, that the smaller the force, the more perfect and general ought to be its scientific acquirements, in order to fulfil the object of a military establishment in time of peace. Every officer of every grade and corps ought to be regularly and scientifically educated, so that when an enlargement of the army becomes necessary in war, by transferring a suitable number of well educated and skilful officers to the newly raised corps, their knowledge may contribute to the formation of officers, who have had less advantages than themselves. For this purpose the military academy is invaluable, and ought to be cherished by the government, with the greatest care; and it was, no doubt, with this view, that Thomas Jefferson advised the establishment of that institution, which has attained to high a state of perfection under the present administration, when he recommended to Congress the reduction of the army, at the commencement of his administration in 1802. But a regular army may be reduced without impairing the security of the country, not only by giving the highest perfection to its organization, and infusing into it the highest scientific acquirements; but also by rendering the other means of defence as perfect as possible. Under this view, the militia, the naval establishment, the system of fortifications, the magazines, arsenals, implements and munitions of war, demand the most serious attention of the country; and the more perfect they are rendered, the less necessary is it to maintain a large military force. Our militia are properly our national guard.

A nation of armed and disciplined freemen is alike formidable to the usurper or invader; and no nation which relies merely on a mercenary defence, without the aid of respectable militia, can be secure either from usurpation or invasion. It is, however, certain, for the reasons which we have already assigned, that in the present improved state of military science, it is impracticable, without too great a sacrifice of time and expense, to give to the militia that experience and skill by which it may entirely supersede a regular force.

No arm of defence is more suited to our condition than the naval. Though situated on a continent, we have, as we observed in our last remarks on this subject, most of the advantages of an insular position. We have, as yet, no powerful neighbours, either on our flank or rear. Our danger, for the present, must come from Europe; between which and us there rolls an ocean of three thousand miles. Thus situated, it is manifest, that a powerful marine, besides the important services which it may render, in extending and protecting our commerce, is among the best and safest means of defence. This is now so universally acknowledged, that it would be useless to attempt to establish the truth of the position, either by reason or reference to experience. As valuable as is this arm of defence, we are of opinion that it cannot be substituted wholly in the place of a regular military force. It must be obvious that we cannot rely upon it, exclusively, as a means of defence, unless we had an ascendancy on the ocean; and that, even then, it would be rash to place such reliance on a single arm, on which if any disaster should fall, the safety of the country might be endangered.

Connected both with the naval and military establishments, is the means of defence by fortifications. A complete system of fortification well kept up along the line of our coast, would add, not only to the safety of our great commercial emporiums; but to the efficiency and activity of our naval and military force. To the former it would give ports of refuge and protection; and by the joint force of the navy and fortifications, would our numerous bays, harbors and rivers, be completely protected, so that in war they would be appropriated wholly to our own use, to the exclusion of that of the enemy.—The effects of such a system in increasing the efficiency of our militia and regular force, is no less manifest. To the former, in particular, it would give the greatest aid. The inferiority of militia force consists principally in the want of steadiness, and precision of movement in field operations, in the presence of danger. These are qualities of the highest order, and can only be acquired by long and severe training. But under the protection of the walls of a fortification they are not so essential; and, with such protection, a militia accordingly approaches much nearer to an equality with a regular force. In addition to these, there are other reasons which ought strongly to recommend these means of defence to our government. The expenditure, when once made, if judiciously made, is permanent; requiring no future addition, except for occasional repairs; to which may be added, that it may be incurred in peace, and at such times as the revenue of the country will admit of it, without oppression; so that, by incurring this expenditure in peace, when we have the means, our expenditure in war, when experience proves it to be so difficult to raise a revenue, in our country, may be greatly diminished.

Most of the observations which we have made in relation to fortifications, are applicable to the arsenals, magazines, implements and munitions of war; all of which require time and considerable expense to complete, and ought to receive the attention of the government in time of peace, when it has sufficient leisure and means.

It is thus by giving perfection to our military establishment, by improving our militia, enlarging our navy, completing the system of fortifications, and acquiring abundant supplies of the implements and munitions of war, that our regular force may be reduced to the smallest number, without weakening the defence of the country, and thereby avoiding the danger which is so justly apprehended from maintaining a large standing force in time of peace. But it will, doubtless, be thought by many, that the national defence does not require all these precautions. In their opinion, our remoteness from danger, habitual use of fire-

arms, and growing population, present sufficient security against foreign danger. But it ought to be remembered, that the safety of the nation is too important to be exposed to the least hazard; and that, if we are remote from Europe, the great seat of military power, yet the great increase of the means of transportation by water, and the improvement in the science of navigation, have brought in contact nations the most remote. It is much more difficult and expensive, in the present state of navigation, to march an army from Petersburg to Vienna, than to transport one from Liverpool to New-York. Nor ought we to forget with what facility the great nations of Europe are brought to co-operate, when a common interest is to be effected; and that they are much more powerfully moved in the present state of the world, by political, than by commercial or territorial objects. We are the only people on earth who live under a government wholly established, and founded on the rights of man. The old governments of Europe which are struggling against the introduction of those rights, are reared on the opposite principle, and must regard, with deep resentment, our example and the wide diffusion of its effects, particularly on this continent. Out of this temper we know not what may grow. While hoping for the best, let us, with a foresight worthy of our freedom, prepare for the worst. With us, has commenced the greatest revolution that has ever occurred in human affairs. On its success our glory, and as we observed in a former number, probably, our safety depends. Let us then, without regard to present sacrifices, be prepared to act a part worthy of our high destiny, and to maintain in perfect security, the invaluable inheritance transmitted to us by our wise and heroic ancestors.

THEORY OF EARTHQUAKES.

M. Biot, after detailing the phenomena of the Earthquake on the 22d February last, concludes an interesting paper with these observations:

"In the infancy of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, it was imagined that Earthquakes might be easily explained; in proportion as these sciences have become more correct and more profound, this confidence has decreased. But by a propensity, for which the character of the human mind sufficiently accounts, all the new physical agents which have been successively discovered, such as electricity, magnetism, the inflammation of gases, the composition and decomposition of water, have been maintained in theories as the causes of the great phenomena of nature. Now, all these conjectures seem to be insufficient to explain convulsions so extensive, produced at the same time over such large portions of the earth, as those which take place during Earthquakes. The most probable opinion, the only one which seems to us to reconcile, in a certain degree, the energy, the extent of these phenomena, and often their frightful correspondence in the most distant countries of the globe, would be to suppose, conformably to many other physical indications, that the solid surface on which we live is but of inconsiderable thickness in comparison with the semi-diameter of the terrestrial globe; is in some measure only a recent shell, covering a liquid nucleus, perhaps still in a state of ignition, in which great chemical or physical phenomena operating at intervals cause those agitations which are transmitted to us. The countries where the superficial crust is less thick or less strong, or more recently or imperfectly consolidated, would, agreeably to this hypothesis, be those the most liable to be convulsed and broken by the violence of these internal convulsions. Now, if we compare together the experiments on the length of the pendulum, which have been made for some years past with great accuracy, from the North of Scotland to the South of Spain, we readily perceive that the intensity of gravitation decreases on this space, as we go from the Pole to the Equator, more rapidly than it ought to do upon an ellipsoid, the concentric and similar strata of which should have equal densities at equal depths; and the deviation is especially sensible about the middle of France, where, too, there has been observed a striking irregularity in the length of the degrees of the Earth. This local decrease of gravity in these countries should seem to indicate, with some probability, that the strata near the surface must be less dense there than elsewhere, and perhaps have in their interior immense

cavities. This would account for the existence of the numerous volcanoes which these strata show the traces, and explain why they are even more, at intervals, the focus of subterranean convulsions."—London Lit. Gaz.

FAMILY.

Great Britain can produce in the royal line of Stuart, a race as steadily unfortunate as ever was recorded in history. Their misfortunes have continued with unabated succession, during three hundred and ninety years.

Robert II. broke his heart, because his eldest son, Robert, was starved to death, and his youngest, James, was made a captive.

James I. after having beheaded three of his nearest kindred, was assassinated by his own uncle, who was tortured to death for it.

James II. was slain by the bursting of a piece of ordnance.

James III. when flying from the field of battle, was thrown from his horse, and murdered in a cottage, into which he had been carried for assistance.

James IV. fell in Flodden field.

James V. died of grief for the wilful ruin of his army, at Solway Moss.

Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, was assassinated, and then blown up in his Palace.

Mary Stuart was beheaded in England.

James I. and IV. died, not without suspicion of being poisoned by Lord Buckingham.

Charles I. was beheaded at Whitehall.

Charles II. was exiled for many years.

James II. lost his crown and died in banishment.

Ann, after a reign, which, though glorious, was rendered unhappy by party disputes, died of a broken heart, occasioned by the quarrels of her favored servants.

The posterity of James II. have remained wretched wanderers in foreign lands.

WHAT AFFLICTION TEACHETH.

Sickness teaches not only the uncertain tenure, but discovers the utter vanity and unsatisfactoriness of the dearest objects of human pursuit. It introduces into the chamber of the sick and dying man the whole pantheon of idols, which he has vainly worshipped—fame, wealth, pleasure, beauty, power. What miserable comforters are they all? Bind that wreath of laurel round his brow, and see if it will soothe his aching temples. Spread before him the deeds and instruments which prove him the lord of innumerable possessions, and see if you can beguile him of a moment's anguish; see if he will not give you up those barren parchments for one drop of cool water, one draught of pure air. Go, tell him, when a fever rages through his veins, that his table smokes with luxuries, and that the wine moveth itself aright, and giveth its colour in the cup, and see if this will calm his throbbing pulse. Tell him, as he lies prostrate, helpless and sinking with debility, that the song and dance are ready to begin, and that all without him is life, alacrity and joy. Nay more, place in his motionless hands the sceptre of a mighty empire, and see if he will be eager to grasp it. The eye of Caesar could not gain its lustre by the recollection, that its "hand could awe the world;" nor his shaking limbs be quieted by remembering, that his rod had commanded obedience from millions of slaves.

But if sickness put to the proof those worthless objects of our confidence, it ought also to direct us to that staff which cannot be broken. Till we learn to lean on an Almighty arm, and to support a mind vigorous with trust, and warm with devotion, in the midst of a racked and decaying frame, the work of sickness is but half completed. To learn the emptiness of the world, is to learn but a lesson of misanthropy, if it do not generate and awaken that confidence, which gladly casts itself on God alone. When affliction has had her perfect work, we shall involuntarily adopt this language of a pious sufferer, "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusteth in thee; yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will commit my soul unto thee, as unto a faithful Creator."

When young, we trust ourselves too much, and we trust others too little when old. Rashness is the error of youth, timid caution of age.