

1,368.64, their own annual average for the previous decade, this annual average of the white troops having been 1,284.95. The non-efficiency from all causes among the colored troops during the year was 25.75 per 1,000 of strength, as compared with 34.72 among the white troops. The colored soldier lost 9.42 days from disability during the year; the white soldier, 12.71; and the average time of treatment of each case was, among the colored troops, 10.84 days; among the white, 11.22 days. The causes of disability from which the colored men suffered less than the white troops were malarial fevers, venereal diseases, alcoholism, diarrhoea, and injuries; those from which they suffered more were neuralgia, rheumatism and myalgia, tonsillitis, colic and constipation, conjunctivitis, and pneumonia.

Besides the special interest this matter may have to those who are anxious for the welfare of the colored people in the United States, the figures presented are of general interest as proving the necessity of temperate living for the perpetuation of a strong posterity. The effects of intemperance and the disregard of natural laws work destruction in short order. It was announced thousands of years ago to the people slowly wending their way through the deserts of Arabia to the land they were to inherit, that the effects of their errors would be visible to the third or fourth generation, while strict observance of the laws and statutes given to them would bring blessings upon their descendants on a vastly larger scale. Experience abundantly proves this to be a fact, applicable to all nations and all ages, no matter what may be the explanation of it. The effect is visible even if the cause is unknown.

#### THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The interest taken in the establishment of a large public library in this city is commendable. The library is recognized as an institution supplementary to the school. Both are necessary for the education of the people and the further advance of civilization. In the school the gates of knowledge are opened and a view is given of part of the unlimited fields beyond; through the library, access is obtained by those whose desire is to walk and gather the flowers that blossom by the roadside, or uncover the intellectual wealth that is hidden beneath the surface.

In the establishment of a public library several facts are now kept in view. The selection of books is made with special reference to the needs of the people, much in the same way as the selection of text books for schools. And since the purpose is not merely to afford amusement and aid the idler in whiling away the hours, but to assist the searcher for useful knowledge on many topics, and if possible to elevate and guide the reading taste of the public, this part of the work is of the greatest importance. It often needs expert advice and always sound, matured judgment.

Hardly less important is the work of arranging a library so that the public may know at a glance what it contains. During the last years, however, classification and cataloguing have been both simplified and perfected.

The chief requirement of a public library is that it be of easy access to the people. On this point a contributor to the Independent some time ago said:

"I believe that the practice of requiring unquestionable guarantees from readers and of excluding them from the shelves, which prevails in many of our libraries, is an inheritance from an earlier time which we may well outgrow. The careful and

expensive guardianship which is advisable in the care of a collection of valuable manuscripts, or first editions or other curios, is unnecessary in the case of a public library as a whole. Formalities which hamper and rules which restrict, are foreign to the genius of a free institution. The open library appeals to all that is best in those who use it. It says in effect, we trust these books to you; they are yours to use, but we expect from you in using them honesty and courtesy and consideration for the rights of others."

The time is past when the library was merely a depository for the treasures of literature, accessible to only a few privileged persons; when books were chained to the walls so as not to reach too large a circle. It is in modern times the fountain from which the many may draw, offering its pure, clear stream freely to all. It has a great mission in the free country where knowledge and intelligence are indispensable to useful citizenship.

#### PEACE SUNDAY.

The Advocate of Peace calls attention to the fact that the Third Sunday of December is to be set apart by friends of the cause of peace for the purpose of bringing that subject to the notice of Christians everywhere. Public preachers are requested to speak on peace and arbitration that day. A special effort, says the paper mentioned, is being made in England, by the London Peace society particularly, to secure a more complete observance of the day there this year. All the clergy of the Episcopal churches in England, Ireland and Scotland are to be especially invited to make peace their theme on the 19th of December; as also the non-conformist churches. The colonies are also to be invaded in the interests of the Peace Sunday. The churches of this country, which have spoken out so strongly and bravely for the past two years at Christmas time against war flurries and in behalf of peace, need hardly be reminded that the occasion for such utterance is as pressing as ever.

It is a commendable thought to dedicate one day of the Lord to that subject, specially at a time of the year when the Christian world is preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the advent of the great Prince of peace. It is true that the discordant elements in the world are as much at work as ever, and wars and rumors of wars are almost incessant. Still a day of peace is about to dawn, and the spokesmen of the cause should be found at the post to hail its first appearance with delight.

#### "MOTHER" MCKINLEY.

The sympathy of the American people will be with President McKinley and his family in the hour of mourning. "Mother" McKinley has been called away. From the filial affection and love always exhibited by the President, the intensity of his sorrow can best be judged. Still, the departure of a good, noble soul, as hers, is not entirely a matter of grief. Faith knows that such, although lost to mortal sight in the mists that separate time and eternity, continue onward in their progress toward light and perfection, to be crowned at last with celestial glory. "Mother" McKinley enjoyed a goodly share of life, and all that goes towards making life truly a success. She was a devout Christian, full of faith and good works; to her even the end of mortality is a triumph over death and the grave.

Notwithstanding her eighty-eight years, Mrs. McKinley was a conspicu-

ous figure during the recent Presidential campaign and the inauguration which followed. Thousands saw her and learned to love her at Canton, where she assisted her daughter-in-law in receiving and entertaining, and later at Washington, where she remained a few days. All speak of her youthful old age, her quaint Puritanic good humor, her sunny nature and above all her simple faith in the all-ruling Providence. Her ambition once was, it is said, to see her son William occupy the position of a bishop in the Methodist church, but she accepted the change of program that led to the White House instead, evidently not because she regarded the Presidency of the United States as a more honorable position than that of a bishop, perhaps not even more important; but because she recognized the hand of God in what took place. Still the capital had no charms for her. She soon left to spend her last days under her own roof.

The career of President McKinley is another illustration of how much children owe to parents, and particularly to mothers. The number of men who attain lasting success in life, except for the training of good mothers, are very few. Sacred history takes note of the fact, and presents many remarkable instances in which the character of the mother is reflected in the children. "Mother" McKinley's home is said to have been an ideal Christian home, just such a place as is needed for the birth and rearing of men entrusted with great and important missions on earth.

#### MISS WEBSTER AGAIN.

Pastor J. C. Andrews, of Provo, invites the "News" to notice that according to a clipping published in the Provo Enquirer, Miss Rose G. Webster "claims a false report of her lecture" delivered recently in Indiana, and commented upon with some, but perhaps not undue, severity by this paper; the pastor adding that "Miss Webster is not a falsifier but a true woman." We are not quite clear whether Mr. Andrews's testimony is that in what Miss Webster said she uttered no untruth (in which case he would deserve as much criticism as she); or whether he means that, being a true woman, she could not have spoken as she is quoted. We are not averse to believing the best that is possible of any traducer; and yet we cannot altogether withdraw the strictures previously passed, in view of later and cumulative evidence that Miss Webster was not very seriously misrepresented in what was said.

This morning's mail brings a letter from Elder John Foote, president of the Northern Indiana conference, written from Indianapolis on the 8th of December in which he says: "One gentleman in Indianapolis, a man of influence and considerable literary ability, yet a free-thinker, told us that had he heard Miss Rose Glen Webster's libelous lecture delivered here a few evenings ago against our people, he would only have been restrained from standing up in the meeting and calling her to account by the fact that she is a female, whom he would not thus like to embarrass."

The same mail brings a letter from Elder J. E. Cardon, secretary of the Northern States mission, in which he says: "Miss Webster is lecturing in the different cities of Indiana; a number of our Elders have attended, and from beginning to end have found misrepresentation. She is the 'drawing card' of the Baptist church to secure means for the furtherance of their work among the Mormons." He also encloses a clipping from a Franklin, Indiana, paper, which gives a synopsis