

"They was." "I ain't" and similar deadly assaults.

Nor does the user necessarily belong in walks of life where such ignorance might be excusable. That the child should follow the example hourly set before him is not at all surprising. In most instances it is pure carelessness on the adult's part, which is far less excusable than were the cause unpretentious ignorance.

The teachers in the public schools should double their efforts with the children. As for the grown ones, there is no way of correcting them."

FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE.

The "News" some time ago expressed the belief that one of the immediate results of the war with Spain, and the victories in which the American volunteers reaped so much honor, would be a reaction among the Old World nations in favor of disarmament. When at Santiago and Malate it was demonstrated that the "raw" Americans acted as veterans in the face of the foe, the old militarism of Europe, made necessary by the iron and blood policy of Prince Bismarck, received it was thought a death wound. This view has now been confirmed from an unexpected source.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg states that the czar has ordered his foreign minister to invite the powers to meet in conference for the purpose of discussing the means of insuring "real and lasting peace and terminating the progressive increase of armament." In the note conveying this invitation to the powers it is pointed out that the present moment is favorable to a movement for universal peace, as that now is a desire felt among all civilized nations. It is also pointed out that unless the incessant adding to the military burdens of the nations does not cease, a cataclysm must come with horrors at which every thinking being must shudder. It is to avert this that the Russian emperor invites the representatives of the nations to assemble for the purpose of solving the problem before the world. Friends of peace throughout the world will hail this step with joy, and if, as is evident, the outcome of our war with Spain has suggested the necessity of calling a halt to the desolating onward march of militarism, it will be recognized in history as one of the greatest blessings given by the Almighty to the world through the nation favored above all others in this dispensation. The proposition coming from such a source cannot be disregarded. It will undoubtedly be accepted, and whether leading to any immediate result or not, the deliberation of the congress will have a lasting influence upon the world's history.

It is a fact that the foremost thinkers of this age consider militarism a relic of barbarism—the inheritance from an age in which no right was recognized but that which rested on brute force. Old General Moltke's idea that universal peace is a dream, and an ugly one at that, is dead and buried with him. There is an almost universal conviction that peace and goodwill among nations is the condition ultimately to be established. The only question is as to the means by which it can be obtained.

Probably the czar has not issued his invitation to the powers without having some definite plan to lay before them. He must be prepared to prove that Russia has no intention of gaining time so as to be better prepared for a struggle with Great Britain. He must be prepared to propose an arrangement whereby sufficient guarantees are given that possible contentions between the powers concerning territory, in the various parts of the world

can be settled satisfactorily. Universal interest will center around this plan, for upon its efficiency the success of the eventual peace congress will depend.

GREAT ARMIES.

The rapidity with which the United States can raise, equip and place in the field a great and effective force of men is a good example to the other nations, but they will hardly profit by it at once, perhaps in large measure because they are unable to do so. The other part of the measure is made up of unwillingness because of inability to realize that there are other available agencies besides armies with which to settle disputed questions. The governments of such nations seem to think that the greatest possible security is brought about and maintained by keeping their subjects constantly beneath the shadow of a war cloud and letting them at intervals hear the howl of the leashed dogs of strife as they tug at their chains and froth at their muzzled mouths.

The United States gets along with a peace-footing force of less than 27,000 men, but its resources are so elastic and its capabilities so vast that this number can be swollen all at once until it is multiplied by tens and hundreds. Contrast this comfortable and expensive situation with the awful burdens which the people of the chief European powers have to bear in supporting military establishments, and note the difference. Russia has the largest standing army, and each year it is growing larger and larger. Every year some 280,000 conscripts join the army, which in time of peace numbers 1,000,000 men; on a war footing this rises to 2,500,000 men, and the calling out of the reserve would increase it to 6,947,000 trained soldiers. Should necessity arise, the second and third bands of the Opoltschenie, or militia, consisting of untrained men, could be called out, thus swelling the army to the enormous total of 9,000,000 men.

France is the next in scale of mighty military establishments, with a standing army of 589,000 men, rising to 2,500,000 in time of war, which the calling out of the reserves would increase to 1,370,000. Despite this tremendous force, the army is increasing year by year, and it will be if it is not already increased by some 16,000 men. The German army, which is rightly considered a model of military perfection, numbers 585,000 men in peace. Within a few days of the declaration of war Germany could put 2,230,000 trained men into the field, and the calling out of the reserves would increase this number to 4,300,000, nearly as many as France and eighteen times as many as the United States deemed it necessary to overcome Spain with.

An army, whether on a peace or a war footing, is an expensive arm of the governmental service. Even our little standing force requires an appropriation every year that runs up into the millions; so just think of what kind of a burden it is that the taxpayers of Russia have to bear with a force thirty-eight times as large to maintain year in and year out! Those of France and Germany differ only in the matter of degree and not very much degree at that. We have much to be thankful for in this land of the free and home of intelligent rather than militant force.

THE WAR NOT OVER.

It looks as if Senor Sagasta were either a diplomatic acrobat or a pettifogging politician, and perhaps his na-

ture, or at least his inclining, causes him to partake somewhat of both at times. He is becoming too flimsily technical for anything. The announcement goes out from him that in the cortes nothing will be said regarding the war, the surrender or destruction of fleets until incontestable proof in each case is laid before that body. He also makes the startling assertion that his country and ours are still at war, that condition of things which has been recognized as peace being merely a suspension of hostilities to enable the combatants to determine whether they will have peace or not. This is all very fine; a little too fine, in fact.

Sagasta has by some means achieved the distinction of being regarded as a statesman. If so, it needs none of the proofs he speaks of to show that his statesmanship relates to Spain altogether and would hardly amount to profound recognition elsewhere. Undoubtedly official conclusions should be based upon official information, but not always necessarily so. If a Spanish ship of war were to founder at sea, or were to bump up against one Schley's bulldogs and be destroyed, in either case all hands on the Spanish craft being lost along with it, how would the premier be able to lay an official report, based on the evidence of some one who was there, before the cortes? Hearsay would in such case have to be accepted, as was the case regarding Apomatox and Manila. In this day of overland and submarine telegraphs, of fast mails and faster newspapers, lots of things may be taken for granted that fifty years ago needed the evidence of a person of station attested by a crest and seal to justify the rulers in taking definite action.

However, if Senor Sagasta is not satisfied in his own mind that the war is over, he can order a resumption of hostilities at any time, whether it suits the convenience of the United States or not. On this side we regarded the formal signing of the protocol as the end of the struggle, and all that remained being merely matters of detail. On that presumption not only but with that distinct understanding, a halt was ordered and our troops and seamen were commanded to fight no more. If the peace arranged for had not been apparently secured, in advance, no negotiations would have been entered into at all; nothing but a fight to a finish, said finish meaning the utter subjugation or the unconditional surrender of Spain. The word "apparently" has some significance apart from the usual meaning as relating to this matter, for in dealing with Spanish statesmen it seems that things may be apparent and not in real existence at the same time. But in the present instance everything was received as in good faith, and on our part it is being so carried out.

To talk of absolute proof of certain things which every schoolboy in this country knows as well as he does his a b c's, is worse than nonsense. It is silly; and to follow it up with a technical repudiation of what was solemnly agreed upon by the two nations, is a subject for discussion, perhaps not for anything more serious. Undoubtedly Sagasta feels sore; so do the other members of the Spanish governmental family. But there are two ways of treating a sore spot—one by trying to heal it and in the meantime making no complaints, the other by continually calling attention to the injury by whining over it and lamenting the means by which it occurred.

If the Spanish as a people are still dissatisfied and would rather seek some other conclusion to the misunderstanding between the Americans and themselves, it would be as well all around for such outcome to be sought at once. Our forces are more or less disorganized in this part of the world at least, and it would be no little trouble and expense