

## EDITORIALS

## AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN WARFARE.

COL. CHARLES CORNWALLIS CHESNEY has written and had published a series of "Essays in Military Biography," which have elicited considerable comment from various writers in this country and across the Atlantic. One feature, connected with the subject, which has come out in a very salient manner in this discussion, is that there is a radical difference in the warfare system of Europe and that of America, in this, that, by the force of tradition, European generals and armies tacitly acknowledge certain circumstances as indubitable evidences of defeat, and American generals and armies never know when they are "beaten" while they can stand up to fight. European soldiers fight, conquer, or are conquered by science, rule, precedent, and American soldiers mainly by sheer energy and the never-give-it-up spirit.

Wellington's refusal to consider himself "beaten" at Waterloo, and his consequent dogged retention of the field until Blucher came up, is cited as an exceptional instance.

A similar difference in warfare is manifest in many of the little, irregular, non-military fights in both hemispheres. Two men or two parties fall out and fight in Europe, and especially in Britain. They fight not to annihilate but to defeat each other, and certain circumstances are tacitly acknowledged and accepted by both persons or parties as evidences of defeat. But in America, especially in the West, persons and parties who fall out and fight, often fight to the death, and seem anxious only for the utter extermination of each other.

If the wing of a European army is flanked, it is generally understood to be a signal of defeat so far, and of immediate retirement of the flanked army. If the centre is pierced and broken, it is generally understood to imply utter defeat and rout of the broken army. The case of Austerlitz is cited as a signal example of defeat and rout from a broken centre. The allied Austrians and Russians descended from their strong position on the Pratzen heights, and strung out in the valleys to flank Napoleon's left wing. Napoleon bode his time and at the decisive moment launched forth his battalions, broke the allies' centre, crushed their weaker wing, concentrated his forces upon the other wing, utterly routed the allies, "finished the war with a clap of thunder," for the time subjugated northern Europe, and hastened the death of Pitt of a broken heart. Says Col. Chesney—

"Neither was the frequently decisive result of the great battles fought in America any proof that they formed exceptions to the ordinary rules of military science. These actions were so inconclusive, first, from deficiency in cavalry, and next, because the beaten side would not break up. The American soldiery, in thus refusing to yield to panic when losing the day, retiring in good order, and keeping a good front to the victorious army, displayed, let us venture to believe, an inherited quality. In order to pursue, there must be some one to run away, and, to the credit of Americans, the ordinary conditions of European warfare in this respect were usually absent from the great battles fought across the Atlantic. Hence, partly, the frequent repetition of the struggle, almost on the same ground, of which the last campaign of Grant and Lee is the crowning example."

This American method of hammering away until one side or the other succumbs through sheer exhaustion and inability to continue the conflict, is not peculiar to warfare on this continent in modern times. The same kind of exterminative warfare prevailed in ancient times alone. The wars of the ancient Americans, according to the history of them in the *Book of Mormon*, were conducted in much the same manner. In the latter part of the fourth century of the Christian era, a series of exterminating wars came to an end in what is now a portion of the State of New York, all the people being gathered

thereabout for the last final struggle between two nations in deadly rivalry and at deadly enmity. An account of this last struggle may be found in the *Book of Mormon*, pages 507-8.

But hundreds of years previous to this great struggle, there was a similar exterminative contest occurred in the same locality, with this difference, that in this earlier contest both parties, millions of people, were exterminated, utterly used up, as will be seen by a perusal of the *Book of Mormon*, pages 545-6-7-8-9.

Whatever may be the meaning or the cause of this peculiarity of American warfare we shall not now stay to inquire. But the fact is one that has commenced to interest thinking minds on both hemispheres. The psychological philosophy of this subject is one of a highly interesting character, and not unworthy of the thoughtful consideration of men and women of intellect in the Old and the New Worlds.

## AMERICAN WARFARE.

IN our notice yesterday of that dogged peculiarity of American warfare, of fighting it out to the bitter end, instead of an overreached army considering itself defeated, as is usual in European warfare, we referred to the existence of the same characteristic in the warfare of the ancient Americans as among the modern Americans, as recorded in the *Book of Mormon*.

In the fourth century after Christ, the two principal nations of North America became engaged in deadly warfare with each other, and after various contests, intervals of peace, successes and defeats, the two nations gathered together in the now northern States to fight it out still further. Finally they assembled at and around, or in the vicinity of, what is now Manchester, Ontario County, New York, with the following result, according to the *Book of Mormon*, page 507-8—

"And it came to pass that when we had gathered in all our people in one to the land of Cumorah, behold I, Mormon, began to be old; and knowing it to be the last struggle of my people, and having been commanded of the Lord that I should not suffer that the records which had been handed down by our fathers, which were sacred, to fall into the hands of the Lamanites; (for the Lamanites would destroy them,) therefore I made this record out of the plates of Nephi, and hid up in the hill Cumorah, all the records which had been entrusted to me by the hand of the Lord, save it were these few plates which I gave unto my son Moroni. And it came to pass that my people, with their wives and their children, did now behold the armies of the Lamanites marching towards them; and with that awful fear of death which fills the breasts of all the wicked, did they await to receive them. And it came to pass that they came to battle against us, and every soul was filled with terror, because of the greatness of their numbers. And it came to pass that they did fall upon my people with the sword, and with the bow, and with the arrow, and with the axe, and with all manner of weapons of war. And it came to pass that my men were hewn down, yea, even my ten thousand who were with me, and I fell wounded in the midst; and they passed by me that they did not put an end to my life. And when they had gone through and hewn down all my people save it were twenty and four of us, (among whom was my son Moroni,) and we having survived the dead of our people, did behold on the morrow, when the Lamanites had returned unto their camps, from the top of the hill Cumorah, the ten thousand of my people who were hewn down, being led in the front by me; and we also beheld the ten thousand of my people who were led by my son Moroni. And behold, the ten thousand of Giddidoneah had fallen, and he also in the midst; and Lamah had fallen with his ten thousand; and Gilgal had fallen with his ten thousand; and Limhah had fallen with his ten thousand; and Joneam had fallen with his ten thousand; and Camenihah, and Moronihah, and Antio-

num, and Shiblom, and Shem, and Josh, had fallen with their ten thousand each.

"And it came to pass that there were ten more who did fall by the sword, with their ten thousand each; yea, even all my people, save it were those twenty and four who were with me, and also a few who had escaped into the south countries, and a few who had dissented over unto the Lamanites, had fallen, and their flesh, and bones, and blood lay upon the face of the earth, being left by the hands of those who slew them, to moulder upon the land, and to crumble and to return to their mother earth."

But still greater struggles of this same exhaustive and exterminative character happened in North America many hundred years previous to those to which the extract above quoted refers. A much more ancient people became involved in wars with each other, and they pursued the fierce strife with similar bitter relentlessness, and unto even a more complete destruction, not one alone, but both parties being exterminated. After describing much war and bloodshed, the *Book of Mormon*, pages 526-7, says—

"And it came to pass that Shiz pursued after Coriantumr, and he did overthrow many cities, and he did slay both women and children, and he did burn the cities thereof; and there went a fear of Shiz throughout all the land; yea, a cry went forth throughout the land, who can stand before the army of Shiz? Behold, he sweepeth the earth before him! And it came to pass that the people began to flock together in armies, throughout all the face of the land. And they were divided, and part of them fled to the army of Shiz, and a part of them fled to the army of Coriantumr. And so great and lasting had been the war, and so long had been the scene of bloodshed and carnage, that the whole face of the land was covered with the bodies of the dead; and so swift and speedy was the war, that there was none left to bury the dead, but they did march forth from the shedding of blood to the shedding of blood, leaving the bodies of both men, women, and children, strewn upon the face of the land, to become a prey to the worms of the flesh; and the scent thereof went forth upon the face of the land, even upon all the face of the land; wherefore the people became troubled by day and by night, because of the scent thereof; nevertheless, Shiz did not cease to pursue Coriantumr, for he had sworn to avenge himself upon Coriantumr of the blood of his brother who had been slain."

"And it came to pass that Shiz did pursue Coriantumr eastward, even to the borders of the sea-shore, and there he gave battle unto Shiz for the space of three days; and so terrible was the destruction among the armies of Shiz, that the people began to be frightened, and began to flee before the armies of Coriantumr; and they fled to the land of Corihor, and swept off the inhabitants before them, all they that would not join them; and they pitched their tents in the valley of Corihor. And Coriantumr pitched his tents in the valley of Shurr. Now the valley of Shurr was near the hill Cumor, wherefore Coriantumr did gather his armies together upon the hill Cumor, and did sound a trumpet unto the armies of Shiz, to invite them forth to battle. And it came to pass that they came forth, but were driven again; and they came the second time; and they were driven the second time. And it came to pass that they came again the third time, and the battle became exceeding sore. And it came to pass that Shiz smote upon Coriantumr that he gave him many deep wounds, and Coriantumr having lost his blood, fainted, and was carried away as though he were dead. Now the loss of men, women, and children, on both sides, was so great that Shiz commanded his people that they should not pursue the armies of Coriantumr; wherefore they returned to their camp."

After this, Coriantumr, finding that nearly two millions of his people had been slain, made overtures of peace to Shiz, who offered to accept them for the people, providing Coriantumr was given up to him for death. Of course this offer was declined, and after a while the two

nations fell to fighting with each other again, continuing the war until they found themselves in this same New York State. Here is the sequel of the struggle, quoting from the *Book of Mormon*, page 548-9—

"And it came to pass that the army of Coriantumr did pitch their tents by the hill Ramah; and it was that same hill where my father Mormon did hide up the records unto the Lord, which were sacred."

"And it came to pass that they did gather together all the people, upon all the face of the land, who had not been slain, save it was Ether. And it came to pass that Ether did behold all the doings of the people; and he beheld that the people who were for Coriantumr, were gathered together to the army of Coriantumr; and the people who were for Shiz, were gathered together to the army of Shiz; wherefore they were for the space of four years, gathering together the people, that they might get all who were upon the face of the land, and that they might receive all the strength which it was possible that they could receive. And it came to pass that when they were all gathered together, every one to the army which he would, with their wives and their children; both men, women, and children being armed with weapons of war, having shields, and breast-plates, and head-plates, and being clothed after the manner of war, they did march forth one against another, to battle; and they fought all that day, and conquered not. And it came to pass that when it was night they were weary, and retired to their camps; and after they had retired to their camps, they took up a howling and a lamentation for the loss of the slain of their people; and so great were their cries, their howlings and lamentations, that it did rend the air exceedingly. And it came to pass that on the morrow they did go again to battle, and great and terrible was that day; nevertheless they conquered not, and when the night came again, they did rend the air with their cries, and their howlings, and their mournings, for the loss of the slain of their people."

"And it came to pass that they fought all that day, and when the night came they slept upon their swords; and on the morrow they fought even until the night came; and when the night came they were drunken with anger, even as a man who is drunken with wine; and they slept again upon their swords; and on the morrow they fought again; and when the night came they had all fallen by the sword save it were fifty and two of the people of Coriantumr, and sixty and nine of the people of Shiz. And it came to pass that they slept upon their swords that night, and on the morrow they fought again, and they contended in their mights with their swords, and with their shields, all that day; and when the night came there were thirty and two of the people of Shiz, and twenty and seven of the people of Coriantumr."

"And it came to pass that they ate and slept, and prepared for death on the morrow. And they were large and mighty men, as to the strength of men. And it came to pass that they fought for the space of three hours, and they fainted with the loss of blood. And it came to pass that when the men of Coriantumr had received sufficient strength, that they could walk, they were about to flee for their lives, but behold, Shiz arose, and also his men, and he swore in his wrath that he would slay Coriantumr, or he would perish by the sword; wherefore he did pursue them, and on the morrow he did overtake them; and they fought again with the sword. And it came to pass that when they had all fallen by the sword, save it were Coriantumr and Shiz, behold Shiz had fainted with loss of blood. And it came to pass that when Coriantumr had leaned upon his sword, that he rested a little, he smote off the head of Shiz. And it came to pass after he had smote off the head of Shiz, that Shiz raised upon his hands and fell; and after that he had struggled for breath he died. And it came to pass that Coriantumr fell to the earth, and became as if he had no life."

Thus at two separate, distinct, and far removed epochs of ancient American history did the people, on a very extensive scale, exhibit the same peculiar refuse-to-be-beaten characteristic in their warfare

as was exhibited, in a large degree, in the recent American civil war. How is it? It is a thing for the philosophers to ponder over.

DECADENCE IN THE SOUTH.—Louisiana and New Orleans seemingly have not yet got to the bottom of the hill of adversity. That State and that city are represented to be in a most distressful condition, and the end is not yet, the distress increases, the decadence goes on, and when it shall stop—who knows?

The New Orleans *Picayune* of March 31 has the following—

"Yesterday we made inquiry of the intelligent deputy sheriff, Col. Dick, what number of tenants paid rent to the Sheriff. His answer was—'Over six hundred, and daily increasing.' And this number has been acquired in one year. At a like ratio, in four years there is great danger that the sheriff will be the sole, as he is now the principal, landlord of the city. In the country it is even worse. More than half of all the properties in the parishes are under seizure for taxes. Not one-third of them would sell for enough to pay taxes and mortgages! This is certainly a condition of affairs which ought to appeal most eloquently to the national government for protection and relief."

## RAILROADS IN THE TERRITORIES.

A SOMEWHAT lengthy discussion occurred in the U.S. Senate, April 8, upon the bill (S. No. 373) to provide for the incorporation and regulation of railroad companies in the Territories of the United States, the question being on the amendment reported by the Committee on Railroads to strike out all the original bill after the enacting clause and insert a substitute. The bill, with some amendment, passed the Senate, April 13.

SEC. 1 of the substitute provided that any number of persons not less than five could incorporate for the construction and operation of railroads in the Territories.

SEC. 2 contained provisions concerning a certificate of specifications of such railroad.

SEC. 3 was incorporative.

SEC. 4 authorized the location, construction, maintenance, and operation of such railroad and necessary appendages.

SEC. 5 regulated the capital stock and shares thereof, each assessment not to exceed ten per cent, and assessments not to be called for nearer together than three months.

SEC. 6 provided for collection of assessments, when sixty days overdue, by action at law, or sale of shares with thirty days' published notice thereof, and written notice to the shareholder.

SEC. 7 authorized the opening of books for subscription of stock; when ten per cent. of the capital stock was paid, five or more directors could be chosen, to continue in office till the annual election of directors, the first to be within six months, and until their successors were chosen and qualified; directors to be chosen by ballot and majority of stockholders, each share entitling to one vote, personally or by written proxy; default of payment to disqualify for voting; the persons named in certificate of incorporation to be the judges and certifiers of election; directors to choose their own president, and the secretary and treasurer of the corporation, also to take inaugural oath or affirmation, declare dividends, and by a majority make by-laws, fill vacancies, and transact the business of the corporation.

SEC. 8 granted 200 feet right of way, and not more than 40 acres additional for every ten miles for depots, side-tracks, etc., with permission to take necessary earth, stone, timber, and water from adjacent public lands to build and maintain the road.

SEC. 9 was one of the most important. It authorized the corporation to secure private lands and premises on the line, similar in extent to those mentioned in Section