

Miss Flood's direction no evil results come. The lads are given the papers for the purpose of selecting clippings for a school scrap-book. They come back to school next day, clippings in hand, and if their selections are good they are rewarded by having them read aloud by the class and then pasted into the scrap-book. Really, the book would do justice to the average collector of a literary turn. No accounts of crimes are ever selected. Stories of nature, animal life, chronicles of the events that go to make history, and choice poetry of the period are much favored by the lads."

Religious services are conducted by the chaplain, who generally gives his audience sermons upon some practical topics. It is stated that this clergyman has helped many a struggling soul to regain a footing on the firm ground of honesty and virtue, and many a time people stop him in the street with a friendly: "Hello, father, you remember me—don't you? I shall never forget your kindness to me at the jail."

It is generally admitted that no spiritual force is more powerful than that which is generated in a kind heart. "God," it is said, "is love." The reason why it is not more generally applied in governing is this that it requires more intellect than possessed by the average man, or woman, to govern and control by that power than to crush opposition with brutal force. We are developing, however, and may some time learn how to rule each one in his own sphere, on the principle by which Omnipotence governs the universe.

THE WAR INVESTIGATION.

It was devoutly hoped when the Spanish soldiers emerged from Santiago and stacked their arms in token of surrender that the serious troubles inseparable from a great conflict would thereafter dwindle and cease altogether at an early date. But they did not; rather, they seemed to begin at that time. Men who enlist in the service of their country, if intelligent and courageous, as were all of that gallant band which stormed the heights of eastern Cuba, expect to be subjected to hardships, of which fighting the enemy is among the least. They expect that in the natural course of things they may be shot with less of sorrow and suffering to follow if it should prove to be a fatal infliction than otherwise. They expect bad food and worse water, sometimes none at all of either, to be eaten or drunk when obtained at times under uncomfortable if not distressing circumstances. They expect to have mature strained to the utmost tension at which a movement can be made in the forced marches, the constant maneuvering, the enervating toll in the trenches, the loss of sleep and the numberless privations incidental to actual service in front of a hostile army. Expecting these things, and being prepared for them, they murmur not when the reality is upon them, albeit much worse than it was possible for them to imagine. They are sustained in all this by a noble inspiration, an instinct of care for country and friends, a deep-down feeling of patriotism which finds its chief expression in actions, not in words. So they are indeed thrice armed against the enemy, doubly panned against the hardships, and fully determined to do their whole duty, let the blows fall where and the consequences be what they may.

Such men are entitled to every reasonable consideration, to every proper indulgence which a mighty nation and a grateful people can extend. The dead should have a Christian burial with all the honors of war and ceremonies of

peace which can be provided. The wounded should be placed in comfortable and commodious hospitals where adequate nursing and nourishing food are always supplied and good ventilation with proper sanitary regulations invariably prevail. When all this is attended to it amounts to little enough. But how hard is it when such conditions are paid no attention to until public pressure wrought upon by the exposures made through the press compels them! Even when the proper procedure is begun, to have it gone along with in so snail-paced and inadequate a manner that thousands die of actual want or neglect before the aid reaches them, and that, too, in a land swarming with every needed thing and teeming with capable hands and willing hearts only waiting to be summoned, is a situation so outrageous, showing a system or lack of it so indefensible that it requires an effort to believe that it has occurred under the aegis of the American flag. But it has, and is a state of things that the soldier did not count on when he turned his back upon home and friends and set his face resolutely to the front.

The developments which have been made by reason of the proceedings of the war investigating commission are of a nature to excite the sternest condemnation. Some of the practices unearthed by the witnesses were cruel if not barbarous in their wantonness and others utterly inhuman. That these were not systematic is of course, but that they were common is undeniable. It was as plain as the universal light of day, long before the declaration of war, that the United States would have to subjugate Spain by military force. Even when the Maine was destroyed, an event which all recognized as the beginning of the conflict, there was ample time within which to have brought the commissariat of the army up to a condition of practical perfection and provided hospital accommodations and stores in plenty, so that when our first blow fell upon the enemy on his own soil all would have been in readiness. Instead of this nothing was done till the tocsin of war was sounded and actual hostilities had begun. When Shafter telegraphed to Washington for additional hospital ships and assistance, it caused a gloom like a pall to fall upon the land, not because dead and wounded in great numbers were not counted on, but the disclosure of the terrible fact that the army was not properly provided for before setting foot upon the foreign shore was more than they had ever thought was possible.

The war was short but terrible. Our men forced the pace and brought the enemy to his knees almost before their people at home could realize it. In spite of their bad treatment, the soldiers of the United States in all ways and at all times did their whole duty and fully, fairly and squarely upheld their country's honor. Braver, better men were not at Thermopylae, not at Balaklava, nor anywhere else in ancient, medieval or modern times. They did their duty regardless of the shocking dereliction at home, looking, as they had a right to, for better things when the work was all over. But they found worse things. They were subjected to such treatment that by comparison the breasting of the leaden hailstorms around Santiago was a holiday pastime. Starvation, neglect, incompetent supervision and many other evils constituting a ghastly train were the portion of many of them. It is mostly over now, but was awful while it lasted. And in contemplation of it all we are not permitted to have the mitigating thought that it was the best we could do under the circumstances. Such a state of things can hardly ever be permitted to occur again. Shortsightedness and favoritism in so

serious a matter may be tolerated for once, because there is no escape from it after the fighting has begun and the country is in a whirlpool of agitation and increasing preparation for the struggle, but another such occasion must be attended by circumstances and conditions improved by the foreknowledge derived from experience. Besides, this is America and we are all Americans, to whom such transactions as those disclosed by the war investigation are not acceptable and will not be tolerated when it is possible to prevent them.

THE POLITICAL BOSS.

The political boss is a fungus growth indigenous to American soil and inseparable from the partisan field. Of course some are milder, meeker, less domineering and occupy a narrower field than others, but they all belong to the same family, are the same genus, so to speak. In the smaller places, and amid more restricted chances the boss is apt to amount to a would-be sort of fellow, one who through some unexpected and perhaps undeserved success has been indulged with consideration because thereof and all at once takes it in his head that he is a born leader, that trickery can be made to take the place of strategy, blustering assume the form of generalship and effrontery stand in lieu of boldness. The cheap boss is about the most objectionable thing of an objectionable class, but as previously suggested, we have him at all times and in all places.

The boss attains to his greatest proportions in the most populous and wealthy centers. Like the piscatorial family, he grows to a size corresponding to the volume and extent of his habitat. In New York city he has attained to his greatest proportions, although Chicago, and even San Francisco have produced some pretty strong seconds. The few that this city has produced have not been so conspicuous, not only because of the more limited field but because, in most instances, of the lack of general capacity for properly playing the part. Among those who have carved their names high up in the political temple of favor are the late William M. Tweed and John Kelly, of New York; also the present Richard Croker, of the same place, all men of conspicuous ability. Of the latter it is said by a correspondent of the Philadelphia Item that no man has exercised a more extensive or permanent influence on the politics of the great American Republic. "I desire to say, and I say it fearlessly, that the field of American politics has produced no greater leader and in New York the public voice has assigned to him the highest place in the political firmament of that city, no mean elevation in a table of political grandeur so rich in illustrious names. The position he has attained depended solely on his personal qualities; circumstances had little to do with it. He rose step by step from the obscurity of a mechanic's life to the highest eminence attainable in his peculiar field of politics. I think that his great physical prowess and his indomitable bravery had much to do with his rapid rise in life. Mr. Croker would not hesitate to engage the most muscular pugilist in battle, and I do not believe that the spectacle of fifty breech-loaders in the hands of as many infuriated political hostiles would make him bat an eye. He has the strength of a lion, and the courage of a lion, too."

Mr. Croker passed through this city some years ago, and so quietly and unostentatiously did he make his way that he was off again before more than a dozen or so knew that he had come.