

THE CRUTCH.

U. S. A. GEN'L HOSPITAL, DIV. 1, SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 1864.

The Results of Our Struggles.

No one can sincerely wish to see his Country involved in war. The loss of life, with the grief and sorrow, brought to so many households, awakens a shudder in the breast of every citizen. Civil war is most to be dreaded. It is a war between kindred and those living as one family, under the same laws, where each has a common interest in the growth and prosperity of the country. As an example, witness the contest which is now going on in our land. While society however, is what it is, and the world has not yet reached that millennial perfection which some suppose will dawn upon us, wars and rumors of wars will not cease. It is like the ever restless, troubled sea. Commotion, strife, passion, pride, and selfishness, are its most prominent characteristics. But terrible as war is, taking into account all the sorrow it occasions, the destruction of property, the loss of life, and a thousand other direful consequences, it still produces results highly beneficial to mankind. Problems are solved and questions long in dispute have new light thrown upon them, so that men are forced to right conclusions, despite their prejudices, and all settle down to a common opinion upon grave matters, which formerly, were involved in difficulties, giving rise to views as various as they were numerous.

It appears to be a law in the divine economy, that great principles effecting the welfare of the race, were only to be evolved and brought to light by causing Nations or portions of the human family to pass through severe struggles. This is the case with individuals. True worth and manliness is developed by trials, by disappointment, and the pressure of unfavorable circumstances. The most eminent characters have been those who have had great difficulties to overcome, in making their way through the world. Indeed, few ever rise to any great distinction, who have always had a smooth and unchequered pathway through life. The struggle in which our Nation is engaged will then, however much it is to be deplored, work out for the good of this great Republic, what the calm even tenor of a Nation's progress, through many years, would have failed to develop—Republican ideas, and institutions as seen in this country will command the attention of the world, if not the admiration; the superiority over the governments of the old world will be easily seen in our strength to crush this great rebellion—in our vast resources, and the opportunities offered to every citizen, however humble, to rise to posts of honor and distinction, the highest in the country. The United States will be known and respected by all the nations of Europe, in a very different sense from that which was held previous to the war. Certainly no nation possesses the same elements of success and stability as the United States. This rebellion once crushed what can stand in the way of our advancement. The several checks placed upon the administration, by our noble constitution, will ever prevent the ambitious and selfish, from fomenting discord, or creating sectional parties that would again attempt our destruction.

Another great result of this war will be that, we have a national government which is not subordinate to that which controls the State. It will be admitted on every hand that we are not a series of independent Sovereignities—States merely linked together by the consent of the citizens of any one—like a rope of sand to be broken by the whim and disappointment of a small portion of the great mass of inhabitants. Secession will have its death blow. This fatal and wild doctrine, originating and fostered in all its virulence in South Carolina, will never again disturb the peace of the Nation. We have seen its bitter fruits. No one who has tasted of these, seen and developed in the present war, would ever wish a visitation of the same upon our country again. Secession will not be once named. The doctrine will die and with it, we trust, all its advocates. But another result will be our relief from that which has so long stood as a stigma and a contradiction to our Declaration of Independence. The institution of Slavery has made us sectional. It blinds the mind and is always the foe

of progression. But freed from this incubus, upon our national life, we shall both North and South, become better acquainted and be bound in stronger ties as one people, for the common defence and prosperity.

Some imagine that even—should we succeed in conquering this rebellion, there never will be any good feeling between the North and South. But those who anticipate this condition of things understand little of human nature. We fear nothing of this kind. We shall forget our differences. The terrible suffering which has fallen on both parties will not tend to alienate but to unite. Freedom of speech will be secured to every citizen in every portion of the land, and the vast territories, comparatively waste land, will be opened to the thrift and energy of the white man. We can see great results in store for our nation. We can never despond in regard to the issue of our struggle. Light will be cast upon many questions relating to the progress and advancement of the human race, in the great principles of civil rights and personal freedom and happiness. While we mourn over the sad condition of our country, and pray that bloodshed and rebellion may soon cease. Yet we believe that order and light shall spring out of our troubles, greatly to the advantage and stability of the American Nation. Like gold, in order to find its purity and intrinsic worth, we as a nation, must pass through the crucible and be subject to the fires of war, suffering, disaster and peril that the dross may be separated and the greatness and importance of American institutions, may stand forth, inviting the study and admiration of the world.

For the Crutch.

The Tableaux Entertainments.

Among the pleasant records of Hospital life, let us place conspicuously the charming Tableaux entertainments given to the soldiers on Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week. The sons and daughters of Massachusetts, as in so many good works, were the movers in this successful enterprise. Messrs. BARTLETT and FISKE, of Boston, who have for a long time been devoting their time and talents to the amusement of the soldiers, gave last week, a series of Tableaux in Baltimore, at the Camden Street Hospital—assisted there by the Massachusetts Ladies of the Hospital. They very kindly volunteered with Miss KENDALL, (one of the Boston ladies now caring for the soldiers in the Camden Street Hospital) to come and give our patients the benefit of one of their entertainments. With the short notice given, it seemed almost impossible to accomplish anything, but with the magical energy of our Surgeon in charge to give an impetus to the preparations, and with the ingenious hands and intelligent heads of our workmen, thoroughly interested in the matter, the "Soap-Suds Factory," (or Wash House) was changed into a commodious Hall, well seated and arranged with stage, curtain, brilliant lights and all the needful accessories. An amateur orchestra, called into organization by the emergency of the occasion, discoursed sweet strains, and added much to the enjoyment and good effect of the whole. The entertainment consisted almost entirely of Tableaux the first evening—the curtain rising first upon the solemn and striking scene of a "Convent by Night." This picture with the representations of "Judith and Holofernes," the "Dream of the Orient," "Three Fishers," and "Angel Whispers," were among the most artistic and beautiful in grouping and effect. The "Inconvenience of single life," was most strikingly portrayed in the comic dismay of a forlorn bachelor, who is happily relieved, however, by the appearance of a "Real convenience," in the person of a neat little representative of the other sex.—The "Peak Family Concert," fairly brought down the house, and was an immense success. The Wax Statuary of Mrs. JARLEY, finished the programme of the first evening, and was assuredly the most wonderful collection ever gotten together. It was exhibited in such a manner by the inimitable Mrs. JARLEY, that we are sure she will have no difficulty in drawing crowds of spectators, whenever she will be kind enough to show them again.

The programme of the second evening was somewhat varied by some fine recitations, and some comic songs

by officers in the Hospital. The Sailor's Hornpipe was also happily introduced, and encored—and we must not forget to mention the wonderful Elephant, which performed to perfection all the feats expected of a well behaved elephant. We witnessed also, the Tragedy in pantomime of Blue Beard and Wives. The atrocious wretch was most vividly personified—and the ghastly heads of his five murdered wives were seen hung by the hair of their heads, (as natural as life!) The ghosts of the five victims were highly gratified however, by seeing the barbarous wretch slain by the gallant brothers of the fair living wife, whose curiosity had nearly cost her life. This pantomime was very well carried out, and the tragic and comic, happily blended in the representation. The "Husking Party," was a merry country scene—and there were some beholders that would like very much to go to the husking the next time that the "red ear" is found.

The last scene was an old fashioned quilting party, in which the old ladies and the youngish maidens seemed to be enjoying themselves amazingly over a quilt for the soldiers. Upon the appearance of some gentlemen of the olden time, even the old ladies in the high caps, were persuaded to renew their youth and join the dance. In such a lively manner, did they trip it "on the light fantastic toe," that the spectators were almost inspired by their example, together with the notes of the music, to which they tripped off so gaily. We thought the old grey headed grandfather and the young widow had a good deal of sympathy for the poor soldiers, and for each other—but as long as the funny little grand dame, who enjoyed her snuff box so much, thought it all right we had nothing to say. While this old fashioned party were enjoying the dance, the curtain fell, leaving the audience to retire in the most excellent spirits—well satisfied with the evening's pleasure, and more than a thousand times grateful to the kind friends who provided the entertainment. The enjoyment of it will not pass away with the dropping of the curtain upon the brilliant scenes—but memory will oft-times repaint them for us, as we turn in after years to dwell upon these days, and the remembrance of them will ever be associated with the names of those friends, whose untiring efforts have given us so much of pleasant thought to store away for future use. We would like to express in person to the strangers who came amongst us, the thanks we owe them, and to all our own good ladies, and gentlemen too—who contributed so large a share of assistance to this pleasant episode of our usual routine of Hospital life—and we feel that "Uncle Sam," owes them all something, for saving somewhat of his funds that might have been spent for quinine and other such "goddies," but for these timely and wholesome opportunities of a good hearty laugh. May our friends be as successful in all enterprises they undertake, and always as happy as they have made some hearts in Annapolis Hospitals.

A GRATEFUL INMATE.

For the Crutch.

Perseverance.

By perseverance you can accomplish almost anything. Disappointments will often cross your path—clouds overcast your sky, and the friends in whom you trusted forsake you. But what of that, all is not lost if you have the unconquerable will and energy to persevere.—To rightly appreciate the excellent and good to be obtained in life, we must taste some of the bitter. What we most value is obtained through difficulties. If you pluck the rose you must expect to be touched by the thorns. The good, the beautiful and the true, you will find surrounded with deformities and incongruities.—But they are to be selected out and separated. A young man seeking an education will meet with difficulties at every step in his course. But this only makes what he learns the more valuable, and treasured with greater feelings of satisfaction. This is a wise arrangement made by our Creator—and it is intended that it should be so, that we may set a proper estimate on all that is valuable. Be not discouraged then when disappointment and trials meet you. Persevere and you will conquer.

G.