

## THE HEROINES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

Just now the great Civil War, and all which pertains to it, is the vogue of patriots in the United States. A nation's novels often fan the flame of popular interest—or are themselves the exposition of it, and Mary Johnston's "Long Roll" has brought the extraordinary heroism which inspired the women of both North and South into bold relief.

How ineffaceable is the impression on one's mind of a visit paid one summer's day to the heights of Arlington—the old home of the Lees, near Washington—where the surrounding acres are dedicated by a grateful nation as the last resting place on earth to the soldiers who die in its service. The approach under the shadows of magnificent oak, where the little grey squirrels were at play. The solitude and deep silence. The exquisitely kept grounds where thousands and thousands of little headstones, each known and numbered, notified the graves of brave men well beloved! No spot on earth which we have visited ever made a deeper impression upon the heart than Arlington. It is quite sacred ground.

And now we learn from the *New York Herald* that there is a movement on foot to erect a monument to the nurses who served in the Civil War. Editorially it says:

"There is something that appeals to the heart in the movement started by a retired army officer with a subscription of \$50,000 and fathered by the Loyal Legion to erect a great memorial at Washington, D.C., to the heroines of the Civil War.

"Who now can recall the names of many of the heroines of those dark and dreadful days? Where is to be found the roster of the brave and tender women who marched with the armies and nursed the sick and wounded,

"Whose lives were spent  
In the dreary hospital tent'?"

"Many of these women actually lost their lives through their exertions and because of exposure. Some of them, strangely enough, not only survived the rigours of the war, but are still living. Miss Clara Barton is amongst those still alive at a ripe old age, while few of those who are wont to smile in derision at Dr. Mary Walker in her male attire are aware that she was a surgeon and nurse through some of the hardest campaigns of the war. Perhaps only those who were in the field recall the gallant deeds and devotion to humanity of Major Reynolds, a remarkable woman nurse who was commissioned a major by the Governor of Illinois, or 'Mother' Bickerbyke, most daring and famous nurse with the army of the Tennessee, known to every man of that command."

It would appear a psychological moment to inaugurate such a memorial. Of trained nurses

in the "sixties" there were few; but every woman was a heroine during those fateful years, and gave not only sympathy and devotion, but oftentimes, her food and furniture, her last superfluous rag of clothing, and calmly faced a beggared future. Never have women proved themselves more truly great in selfless devotion than during the American Civil War—to commemorate their patriotism the monument must be noble indeed.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The memorial to David Livingstone is to take the form of freeing the Charing Cross Hospital (at which he was a student) from debt, in order that the closed wards may be reopened under the name of the Livingstone Wing.

Surely no one, of whatever creed, can read the life of David Livingstone without being thrilled with admiration for the wondrous courage and strength of purpose which were great enough to carry him through those vast tracts of the then unknown Dark Continent. Perhaps the greatest tribute of all is the fact that he was able to gain the love and affection of those far-off tribes among whom he lived. This memorial in Central London should be a not unworthy one to the memory of the great medical missionary, and we are glad to know the fund has made considerable progress.

Petitions are being received by the Home Office from prison warders praying for (1) more pay, (2) abolition of confidential reports, (3) reduction of working hours, and (4) amelioration of superannuation allowances.

They might also have petitioned for systematic training to fit them more efficiently for their very responsible duties.

Mr. Asquith has announced in the House of Commons that he has every hope that legislation dealing with the care and control of the feeble-minded will be undertaken next Session.

We are glad to note that the Insurance Bill has not yet cast a shadow over the generosity of Birmingham Hospital Saturday. In distributing cheques to the representatives of the medical charities of the city, the Lord Mayor was able to announce that it was the twenty-first occasion upon which £10,000 had been distributed through this source to the hospitals.

The County of Cumberland was well represented on October 28th at the opening ceremony of the "King Edward Memorial Wing" of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. The new wing consists of a large children's ward containing twenty-four cots, and beneath it a men's surgical ward of twelve beds. Both have south and west aspects, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)