

Indians, which, say they, will deteriorate the general standard of the white population ;—they deplore the development of a love for military glory, a passion inconsistent with all true republican principles ;—and one friend observed to me, “ You will soon see a successful soldier, wholly unknown to all of us at this moment, a man unversed in civil affairs, raised to the Presidency.” I asked whether, in a country where nearly all are industriously employed, it will be possible to find recruits for foreign service. Nothing, they reply, is more easy. “ Our broad Indian frontier has nurtured a daring and restless population, which loves excitement and adventure, and in the southern states there are numbers of whites to whom military service would be a boon, because slavery has degraded labor.” A week later I received a letter from a correspondent in the south, who said, “ Such is the military fever in Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, that these states alone would furnish 50,000 men, if required ; and in many districts we are in fear of such an enlistment of the white population, that there will be too few left at home to serve as a police for the negroes. Married men are going, as well as bachelors, lawyers, medical men, and schoolmasters, many of whom have no taste whatever for fighting or foreign service, but they know that to have served a year in a campaign, to have been in a battle, or have been wounded, would advance them more in an election, or even in their several professions, than any amount of study or acquired knowledge.”

The Sunday following we heard a sermon by the Rev. Orville Dewey, in which this spirit of territorial aggrandizement, this passion for war, these false notions of national honor and glory, were characterized as unchristian, and indicating a low standard of private as well as public morality. I remarked to a New England acquaintance, who was one of the large congregation, that whatever might be said against the voluntary system, the pulpit in America seemed to me more independent than the press. “ Because every newspaper,” he replied, “ is supported by half yearly or annual subscribers, and no editor dares write against the popular sentiment. He knows that a dagger is always suspended over him by a thread, and if he presumed to run counter