

tion be fairly discussed and decided which forms a standing topic in the college, the academy, and the lyceum — whether she be inferior to man in intellectual power.

. I have already alluded to war as eminently hostile to mental improvement. Probably no custom of society has been more so; and consequently it is chargeable with a vast waste of intellect. It exerts this pernicious influence in part by destroying the lives of many who might be the intellectual ornaments of their country; for the highest and most enterprising minds are most apt to be drawn into the vortex of vice, because they love its powerful excitement. The wars of Julius Cæsar destroyed not less than two millions; those of Alexander of Macedon, as many; those of Napoleon, twice as many. Nor can it be doubted that all the wars which have blasted the globe have swept from its surface as many human beings as now inhabit it. Again, war inevitably produces a state of things most unfavorable to the advancement of knowledge. Literature and science can flourish only amid the calm and security of peace. The war spirit awakens too much excitement, and brings into too powerful action the ferocious passions, to allow of the cultivation of the intellect. The public mind becomes a stormy sea, engulfing every thing which cannot live in a tempest. Finally, the great pecuniary expenses of war, which fall most heavily upon the middling and poorer classes, deprive them in a great measure, and for a long time, of the leisure and money necessary for extending the blessings of education through the community. The agricultural and manufacturing interests of a country are left by war in a deranged state, and a heavy public debt is usually entailed upon the nation; and to pay this debt, and restore the business of the country to a healthy condition, demand the