

Disarmament—The First Step

Extracts from an Address of Alexander Berger

I have lived many years on the broad and fertile plains of the west. The arts have reared few monuments amongst us and scarce a trace of the muses' foot is found in the paths of our forests, along the banks of our rivers or on our undulating plains, but neither has our soil ever been desecrated by the shedding of human blood. Its wide extent has never heard the reverberation of cannon, the spirit stirring drum, the ear piercing fife, the pride and pomp and circumstances of devastating war. But at Woolwich, one held in high repute by you of the east, as a sage and teacher, has said, "All the pure and noble arts of peace are founded on war. * * * There is no great art possible to a nation but that which is based on battle."

If it is so, it is a grievous commentary on civilization.

We of the west may never have seen a Sistine Madonna or Profane and Sacred Love, but we have stood in awe at the beauty of a brilliant sunset on a western plain and gazed with fear and trembling at the fierce fury of a forest fire.

No carara marble may have been chiseled for us into an Apollo Belvedere or a Laocoon, but nature has framed for us an El Capitan and a Garden of the Gods.

We may not have heard the Ring of the Niebelungen Lied or the Sonata Pathetique, or Tschalkowsky's great symphony, but there is music in the gentle zephyr sighing through green pine and quaken aspen, in the torrent's roar, in the crash of falling mountain slide.

We may not have a Colosseum or Acropolis, beautiful in their ruins, but there is built for us the marvelous Canon of the Colorado and the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas.

These things that we have seen and heard and loved are as much greater than the works of man as is hyperion to satyr, as is the infinite to the finite. Better no art if it is to come to us carved only by the palsied hand of the maimed and tinted only with the life blood of the brave.

Unfettered by the artificiality of your more intensive life, we are not inoculated with that doctrine of fear which proclaims peace obtainable only at the destructive expense of unremitting preparation for war. It is a paradox that tickles the ear, a doctrine not consecrated by age and not supported by the authority of a single great name.

For the uttermost limit of the prairie, from the highest pinnacle of our mountains, is passing from our gaze the pioneer. He has never been accused of cowardice. The world knows him only as the bravest of the brave. Armed was he, it is true, to contend with the savage and beast, but upon every statute book of the western states has he stamped indelibly the philosophy of his experiences and in language all can understand has he said that the carrying of a deadly weapon is the occasion of its use. His simple philosophy history translates to a wider application. An armed nation is a warring nation. A warring nation is a decadent nation. Is proof demanded?

The far and peaceful east, with institutions undisturbed through centuries, saw Greece, lovely Greece, the "land of scholars and nurse of arms," saw Rome, Republican Rome, whose cohorts penetrated even the fastnesses of the Himalayas, rise and fall, saw the whole of Europe plunged in the darkness of the Middle Ages to all mortal eyes an

abolished and annihilated civilization.

If then there can be art and the love of art without war, peace without the preparation for war, is it possible to stamp this conviction with an overt act?

The budget of every country engaged in the preparation for war to prevent it, spells ultimate exhaustion and bankruptcy. Better actual war with all its destruction and horrors, than continuous preparation for it, making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The former thrive, the latter suffer, in actual war or the preparation for war.

Its moral wrong has been known in all ages. It is as logical to speak of moral immorality as of civilized warfare. Civilization and war are forever contradictory terms. It is effeminacy to endeavor to make war less horrible. The growing intelligence of man alone has lessened its frequency. Paradoxical as it sounds, powder, dynamite and glycerine have been its most efficient opponents.

It is urged that arbitration cannot settle the differences between nations because of lack of compelling power. No law, not even municipal law, can long be effective without a supporting public opinion. The public opinion of the world is the true international executive. It is greater than an army or combined armies. Again can we learn a lesson from the pioneer. He has told you that the most effective way to disarm a foe is to be yourself unarmed.

Charity, we are told, should begin at home. Nowhere is it said it should not terminate with the borders of our land. Our charity should not embrace the white race alone. It should encompass the oppressed of all nations and every clime, be they round or almond eyed, white, black or tan. Nowhere is it held by nature or prophecy that certain lands are for the Caucasian exclusively. If the growth of sect or race presses upon their confines, that charity which passeth all understanding should enable them to occupy that which is little used or unused. This breathes throughout the original concept of our institution. It was in the heart of Adams, Franklin, Washington and Jefferson.

Even as we advanced the idea to a doubting and astounded world a century and a half ago in a concrete and effective way, that all men were created equal and that all government should exist only by and with the consent of the governed, so let us present to a properly constituted authority of the nations to do police service on the high seas which would involve the protection of the innocent and the weak and the unarmed, all our battleships, all our armed cruisers, all our paraphernalia of naval war, built and building to meet phantom fleets. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP.

Here, if anywhere, it should not be forgotten that the murder of Hamilton sounded the death knell to Cueling. Nineteen hundred years ago the doctrine of brotherly love to be accepted, demanded an immortal sacrifice and it was given. Is a martyr nation demanded to relegate war forever to the past? I take it not. But if so, what nation is better able to assume that duty than ours?

The public opinion of the world would never permit an attack on a generous, unarmed foe. The high cost of living demands disarmament. Let its demand not be lightly heard. Humanity cries for the assurance and courage born of righteousness, and as we are the greatest of the governments of, for and by the people, upon whom other should the duty of initiative devolve? Shall we follow or shall we lead?

GLASS AS AN ORATOR

Those who think that discussions of the currency bill are always dry and technical should have been at the dinner of the Economic Club of New York city held at the Hotel Astor last week. It was the occasion of a remarkable debate upon the merits of the bill now before congress—a debate in which Professor Joseph French Johnson, of the chair of political economy of New York university, and Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City bank of New York city, opposed the bill, while Senator Owen of Oklahoma and Representative Carter Glass of Virginia defended it. The appearance of Senator Owen and Representative Glass in this debate was of special interest because they have been active in framing the currency bill, they stand sponsors for it, it bears their names, and is popularly known as the Glass-Owen bill.

Aside from the value of this debate as a contribution to public knowledge regarding the creation and construction and provisions of the bill, it was a notable illustration of the power of the orator to influence his audience by sheer force of character and intelligence. We suppose Mr. Glass would be the last man to regard himself as an orator—indeed, he apologized for what he feared was the effectiveness of his address on the ground that as a journalist he was a better writer than speaker. But his apology was unnecessary. He was the last speaker of the evening and began at a late hour; the financial sentiment of New York city is opposed to the bill, and therefore his audience of twelve hundred bankers and leading men of affairs was an unsympathetic one. Professor Johnson and Mr. Vanderlip had preceded him and had spoken with authority and effectiveness—one with the authority of the scientific economist and the other with the authority of the accomplished financier. But before Mr. Glass had finished he had his audience with him, eliciting laughter for his incisive and witty comments and loud applause for his clear reasoning and for his manifestly accurate knowledge not only of the bill but of the history and the operations of American finance. Twice when he essayed to stop he was greeted with loud cries of "Go on" from all parts of the room, and his speech, one hour long, was listened to with appreciative attention from beginning to end.

Mr. Glass accomplished perhaps more than he himself realized in removing misconceptions, misunderstanding, and prejudices regarding the bill, which unfortunately have prevailed to too large an extent in the financial metropolis of the country.—The Outlook.

ALL ABOUT THE CHAUTAUQUA

(From Paris edition of the New York Herald of October 2, 1913.)

Vichy, France, September 30th, 1913.—To the Editor of the Herald. Sir: Mr. Lewis' letter in Thursday's Herald gave a correct estimate of the chautauqua's standing in the United States; from a high class summer school at Lake Chautauqua, N. Y., the idea has spread, particularly in the middle west, until it has attained

the dignity of an institution, and every community in that section, no matter how small or remote, if its citizens are progressive and aspire to keep abreast of the times in scientific knowledge and culture, boasts its chautauqua. As is well known, they are not conducted for profit, usually managed by a voluntary organization. Entertainment and instruction are furnished by specialists attracted from every field of useful endeavor.

Colonel Bryan has been the most popular of these lecturers, and his desire to spend his vacation in touch with this class of his fellow citizens is not only natural, but commendable. That he, like other lecturers, is paid for his services, does not alter the facts, and for newspapers to say that it is incompatible with the dignity of his great office for the secretary of state to deliver lectures which edify, instruct and entertain countless thousands, is a refinement of reasoning which I am unable to appreciate; and when they go further and compare the American chautauqua with a vaudeville circuit they only demonstrate how far afield their venom carries them.

These detractors are the self-same ones who have attempted to hold Colonel Bryan up to public scorn during his eventful career.

I am now and have been for a number of years a member of the American congress, and have more or less knowledge of the unfair attacks that have been made on Colonel Bryan, and I unhesitatingly say that despite these assaults he has remained calm and serene, and although defeated three times for the presidency he is still the most conspicuous figure in American public life.

These things are well understood in the United States, and being understood, the criticism is discounted; but this not true abroad, and it grieves me to see the Herald reprint articles and cartoons from American papers which must have the effect of bringing America and all things American into contempt, particularly in this true since the Herald is generally so thorough-going in its Americanism, and one might say almost partisan in its championship of America and Americans. (Signed)

TIMOTHY T. ANSBERRY.

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