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"PEACE." Speech Delivered by Mr. Bryan at the Holland Society Banquet, New York City.

"Since my visit to the Netherlands my thoughts have been dwelling much upon the important part that that little nation seems destined to take in the movement that has for its object the substitution of reason for force in the settlement of differences between nations. I have been recalling the stubborn fight made by the sturdy Dutch for liberty of conscience, freedom of speech and constitutional government, and have rejoiced that at last the fragrant flower of peace has appeared upon the thorny stalk of war. It is fitting that the Temple of Peace should stand upon the ground that was the scene of an eighty years' conflict, and I am glad that an American citizen has so generously provided for its construction.

"A prophet in olden times foretold the coming of an era of peace so universal and profound that to emphasize it he pictured it as extending even to the beasts. The wolf and the lamb, he said, shall dwell together; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf, the lion and the fatling shall keep company together, and a little child shall lead them. Are our eyes to witness the fulfillment of this prophecy? When primacy among the nations shall be conceded not to the one having the largest number of destructive battleships nor to the one having the most numerous army, but to the one setting the best example and contributing most to the welfare of the world, then the Netherlands can enter into honorable rivalry with her most populous neighbors.

"We must not expect all armies to be disbanded at once or look for the immediate settlement of all questions by arbitration. Progress is slow—

"Heaven is not gained by a single bound;
 We build the ladder by which we rise
 From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies;
 And mount to its summit round by round."

"So with the advancement of the race. We press forward, often impatient of delay, but experience teaches us that as the trees that are strong enough to withstand the storms do not mature quickly, so great reforms come by degrees. There is, however, reason to believe that the light of a better day is already breaking.

"The peace conference which, by invitation of the czar of Russia, convened at The Hague—the peace conference to which our own country has given such effective support—did not announce a new discovery; it simply gave expression to a desire that was felt, to a greater or less extent, among the more enlightened of every nation. It revealed the fact that society is at last approaching the point where conscience will assert its supremacy over the brute instinct. There have been times when bravery upon the battlefield was considered the highest form of virtue, and there have been times when intellectual force and independence of thought have been considered all sufficient, but now heart characteristics are beginning to be recognized as the dominant ones. Instead of civilization being measured, as Buckle declares, 'by the mastery of the human mind over the forces of nature,' we are beginning to define it as the harmonious development of the human race, physically, mentally and morally. We are finding that neither the perfectly developed body nor the splendidly trained mind fills the measure of the man or of the nation. Moral development is indispensable; the perfect man is a three fold man, and the

spiritual part of his being cannot be ignored.

"The evils which afflict the body politic, whether in this country or in other countries, are not due to the extraordinary development of the material resources of the world, but to the fact that the moral sense has not always kept pace with industrial expansion. The craft, so to speak, has outgrown its steering apparatus. It is as if the Celtic were equipped with a rudder made for the Half Moon. But there is an awakening at hand. In the United States, in England, in France, in Russia, everywhere, there is an increasing group of those who are looking up to a higher ideal, who insist that a physical combat between men is as powerless as a fight between wild animals to determine the right or wrong of any proposition. They fear that even intellect, unless warmed and vitalized by a belief in the brotherhood of man, may go far astray. They contend that love alone—an all comprehending and all powerful love—can discern the truth, and, discerning it, both define the rights of man and prescribe his duties toward his fellows. It is not upon the plutocracy of wealth, nor upon the aristocracy of learning, but upon the democracy of the heart that the hope of universal arbitration and permanent peace must rest. The conscience is the most potent force of which man has personal knowledge, and when quickened, its gentle promptings are more imperative than statute laws, and the invisible barriers which it surrounds one are stronger than prison walls.

"If at times the war spirit seems rampant and we are tempted to exclaim: 'Right forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne!' let us find encouragement in Holy Writ.

"When Elijah was fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel and believed all the prophets to have been slain, the Lord commanded him to stand upon the mountain, and as he stood there a mighty wind swept by him and rent the rocks asunder, but God was not in the wind; and after the wind came an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but God was not in the fire; and it was the voice of God. Even so today, an increasing number of people throughout the world, standing upon the heights, are learning that God is not in the ironclads that sweep the ocean with their guns, nor in the armies that shake the earth with their tread, nor yet in the fire of musketry, but in the still small voice of justice that issues from tribunals like that recently instituted at The Hague. May this tribunal justify its creation and insure its perpetuity by judging the nations with righteousness and reproving with equity."

The New York World gives the following report of an incident at the Holland society dinner:

Mr. James M. Beck, former assistant attorney general of the United States, having made some criticisms of labor organizations, Mr. Bryan after concluding the speech which he had prepared, submitted a few remarks, showing what good has been accomplished by labor organizations, and declaring that organized capital and corruption of politics offered the real menace to the nation. The following account of the incident is taken from the New York World's report of the Holland society dinner: With "Peace" for his toast, William Jennings Bryan, at the Holland society dinner last night, took up the challenge of James M. Beck, the young Wall street lawyer, and treated

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