

dispelled, the balances resume their former relations, unless, perchance, the instrument itself has been injured and made incapable of rendering a true result. Yet man, in all his wisdom, stands before the scales of justice and strikes and strikes, eagerly noting the result, cries: Behold, justice is mine! Can he not realize that the balances will inevitably swing back; that force cannot control them permanently; that he is imposing upon himself a folly and delusion? Nor can he further engage in the deception by pointing out an apparently favorable result due to an incorrect registering of the scales, for though the material instruments of balance may be sprung and broken the eternal scales of justice are as unpervertible and indestructible as He who made them. An infallible hand has fitted and adjusted them and they partake of the divine perfectness and permanence. How weak are the physical forces of man and nature, when taken from their sphere. Bring to bear on a question of right and wrong all the mighty armaments of earth; let the millions of dead arise and arm and join the hosts of the living; let wind and wave and tide throw their resistless powers into the combat; let the rolling thunders and flaming lights of the skies be enlisted in the conflict; let the pent up energy, in this earth, with all the accumulated force of a thousand years, burst forth and sweep into the struggle, unite, combine and concentrate them all, and let them charge as a mighty unit of force—and they are powerless. But let the crowning feature of man step forth, but let reason hold sway, and that problem with a world of force could not conquer is solved and solved aright and solved forever.

The advocates of war tell us that it forms national character. The soldier may be stirred by feelings of deepest patriotism; his blood may be fired with the examples of heroic and illustrious achievements; he may be spurred to deeds of bravery and inspired to acts of noble generosity; he may have the firmest belief in, yea, his pulses may throb with the conviction of the justice of his cause, but the blunting, stultifying, searing effects of the battle-shock can never fail to rob him of his sublimest qualities. Our national character was formed when the Puritan suffered midst snow and rock and forest to found a home in freedom, and died from hardship and exposure in the love of that liberty he believed God given to every man; it was formed when the western pioneer planted his homestead on the tractless prairie and fought for sustenance while converting these wild and lonesome plains into lands of usefulness and industry. They tell us man is made perfect through suffering, yea, but of a different stamp is found in pitiful abundance. They scoff at the idea that civilization is leaving the barbarism of war behind; stating, as grounds, the fact that war is becoming more scientific, showing therefore increased interest and preparation. Nay! 'Tis but one feature of advancement away from war. Every throb of machinery as it forms new instruments of death is but the drum-beat that marks the pace of the onward march to a new and nobler method.

But the question arises, what of the hopes of arbitration? Look at Europe! She trembles and lies panting in expectation of war. Training armies and steeled forts proclaim not peace. It may be that that unhappy continent will again be ravished by the destroying blasts of war; it may be that a tide of blood is once again to sweep over the furrowed face of the land, methinks I hear the voice of the prophet, with kindling look and inspired mien, proclaiming: It shall bear away upon its floods, thrones, crowns, kingly vestments and queenly robes, and under its waves their occupants shall sink to their eternal rest. For midst that dread chaos and universal strife, the pure light of liberty, not as a fleeing meteor but as a fixed star, shall blaze forth and illumine the path of the common man. Then shall he come forth from the wrecks of powers and build anew. For himself shall he raise a temple dedicated

to liberty with all the word means. This shall be the result of his labors, the realization of his opportunity. If thus the freeing of the masses of Europe and their formation into republics shall be effected, then indeed comes quick response to our question, for to America's enlightened appeal there will come back from nations whose people are citizens as we are citizens, an enlightened answer.

If war come not, yet will reason conquer and emperors, czars, kings and queens be brought to listen to the dictates of its voice. The advancing spirit of the ages has contended with many and mighty problems. Fallacious principles and mistaken dogmas have been infused and ingrained and so woven in the hearts and minds of men that for their perpetuity they fought as for life itself. Yet steadily the spirit of truth and progress was held upon its course. Centuries have watched its approach; the light of its eternal flame has thrown its hopeful glimmerings far out upon its path and again darkened the despairing ages as the mists and obscurities of opposition rose before it in contending mass: the sorrowing years beheld its glorious light o'erwhelmed and wept. But gathering strength and intensity from resistance, silently its rays struggled and pressed and pierced until they again burst through the clouds and revealed, in all its original purity and lustre, their beautiful and undying source. That spirit yet lives and continues upon its course. As in the past so in the present and in the future those principles that are erroneous and untenable cannot stand. The principle of war is opposed to the spirit of progression and must fall. Yea, even this "gigantic evil of evils," world wide as it is spread, covering the earth as with a pall, uninterrupted in its sway of six thousand years, permeating and moulding the institutions of man and now holding in its grasp the destiny of every nation on earth—cannot prevail against right and justice, the might of reason and the strength of enlightened conscience.

The past reveals both study and discovery; it reveals both price and that purchased; both prayer and the answer. Not without result were sacrificed the life years of the early scholar, were heard the agonized groans of tortured martyr, were witnessed the sufferings of Him who died upon the cross. Then let the forces of enlightenment and progression move onward; education and Christianity are to expand their power and influence; they are to multiply their means and strengthen their energies; their monumental works are to reinforce the noble men and women who live in their service and encourage them to continued effort and labor; they are to maintain their cause through the royal manhood and womanhood of this age and hasten the dissemination of their blessings. They constitute the spirit that uplifts and leads humanity onward; they are the forces that cleanse and purify and awaken, that build and shape and mould in new and nobler form.

Through the shaping of these mighty events changing scenes reveal themselves, intermingling and crowding upon the mind's vision. Behold a tribunal for the nations of earth, a parliament of man, wherein abides justice for all; a world under one King, and that King—Reason. What next? Mighty armies, navies, forts and arsenals vanish; a tide of wealth flows inward upon the lands; commerce throbs with a stronger beat; homes for the poor and wretched are built; hospitals for the sick and disabled arise; institutions of learning thicken in whose walls are taught the everlasting principles of peace founded on reason, national honor rests upon the same basis fire of citizens of whatever country has become the common concern of all mankind. All hail the day when international law shall become a universal law; when the star of peace shall shed its perpetual light over a world that has outgrown the need of ironclads, outgrown the need of standing armies, and has realized the dream of Tennyson, when