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PEACE ON EARTH.

One of the great events of the present year was the second Hague congress which held sessions during the summer months. It has very generally been regarded as a failure. And so it was to all who expected too much from its deliberations. Of the thirteen conventions adopted, nine refer to the regulation of warfare, and only one to the prevention of war. But, when everything is considered, the congress accomplished all that could reasonably be expected of it.

It must be remembered that this gathering was not the result of a popular demand. The proposition was adopted at the session of the interparliamentary union held at St. Louis, and the matter being presented to President Roosevelt, he courteously consented to suggest to the Russian Czar that another invitation be issued to the powers to send representatives to the Hague, and thus the congress was held, out of courtesy to the promoters of it, and not as an expression of a widely felt necessity. Under the circumstances no more could be hoped from it. When the masses of the nations shall have become educated to a point that they demand of their rulers, or representatives, that war cease, and that a union of nations take the place of disunion and discord, peace congresses will be a success.

Still, there is every encouragement to the friends of peace to continue their efforts in behalf of humanity. In all ages noble men and women have looked forward to the time when peace would reign supreme on earth. Hear George Washington:

"My first wish is—although it is against the profession of arms, and would clip the wings of some of your young soldiers who are soaring after glory—to see the whole world in peace, and the inhabitants of it as one band of brothers striving who should contribute most to the happiness of mankind."

This was the sentiment of that grand, old man, Benjamin Franklin:

"I hope that mankind will at length as they call themselves reasonable creatures, have sense enough to settle their differences without cutting throats; for, in my opinion, there never was a good war or a bad peace."

And again:

"God grant that not only the love of liberty, but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man, may pervade all the nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface and say: 'This is my country.'"

We might quote Thomas Jefferson, Noah Worcester, the founder of the first American Peace society; William Ellery Channing, and a host of witnesses.

Listen to the beautiful song of Whittier:

"Lend, once again, that holy song a tongue,
Which the glad angels of the advent sung,
Their cradle-anthem for the Saviour's birth,
Glory to God and peace unto the earth!
Through the mad discord send that calming word
Which wind and wave on wild Genesareth heard—
Lift in Christ's name His cross against the sword!"

Such are the voices that come to us from almost every age and every generation, but especially in our own age are they multiplying. The peace sentiment is growing. It is rolling on, and with a little help it will become an avalanche, sweeping everything in its path.

There is in the world today a very marked tendency toward union. It is not all discord. Man is commencing to realize, as never before, the solidarity of the human race. In the light of both reason and revelation man commences to understand that God is the Father of all, and not only of the Jews, or the Christians. Dogmas are falling around the heads of their confused, panic stricken architects. The old shackles of creeds erected in ages of darkness are no longer safe places of refuge against the general destruction. They are tumbling down, and the light of heaven is penetrating to the inner recesses. People are set free, and in the light of the Gospel they realize that a new day is about to dawn.

This finds its expression in many ways. We have today a number of international institutions. We have an International Institute of Agriculture, founded under the auspices of the King of Italy. We have an International postal union; an interparliamentary union; The Hague Tribunal, and many others. The world is striving to get a common language, common weights and measures, and common money. The tendency is unquestionably toward unification.

Another factor in the consolidation of nations and races is the development of international intercourse. The world is growing smaller all the time, owing to the perfection of lines of communication whereby nations are brought into ever closer contact.

Some time ago a French writer published a map, showing how France has "shrunk" during the last century, if the distance from one city to another is represented not by kilometers but by hours of travel. According to this map, the time from Paris to Marseilles was 112 hours, in 1814; 80 in 1834; 38.5 in 1850; 16.2 in 1887; and 11.4 in 1900. That is, France is but one-tenth of what it used to be, when distances are measured by the time it takes to cover them. The entire world has "shrunk" in the same way. Continents have been drawn together; nations are learning to know each other, and the beautiful idea of human brotherhood is extending, as the earth is, as it were, contracting.

It would be blind who should fail to see in these signs of the times an indication of the dawning of a new era. The time is not far away when the insane illusions of martial glory shall be dispelled, and rising generations shall be trained to the habitual exercise of the sentiments of universal brotherhood for the race. The time, we say, is auspicious for work in this direction, as never before. As those standing on the mountain tops perceive the first rays of the rising sun, so can we, at this time, from the heights of civilization, see the coming reign of peace, and we joyfully sing: "Lift high the gates, and let the King of Glory in—the King of Glory, the Prince of Peace."

The secret of universal peace should be no secret. The Prophet Isaiah foretold the advent of One to be called The Prince of Peace, because he would "establish it with judgment and justice." Universal justice is the foundation of it. And one of the commandments He gave was: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Where this commandment is obeyed, peace reigns. It is the key note of the song of angels: "Peace on earth to men of good will."

CHRISTMAS GREETING

Once more, through the medium of the Christmas "News," it is our esteemed privilege to extend to our readers and friends everywhere the compliments of the season. In this holiday issue, according to an established custom, will be found a review of the more important events of the year, a greeting from the First Presidency to the Saints in all the world, and many other excellent features of local and general interest, but its chief mission is to be a bearer of a loving message of peace and good will to the thousands of homes in which it is a welcome guest.

The present year does not close with so favorable an outlook, if financial conditions alone are considered, as its immediate predecessors. Still, 1907 has been a year of prosperity. The earth has yielded abundantly, and the output of the mines has exceeded previous records. We notice that no less than \$5,373,137 have been paid in dividends from Utah mines this year, as compared to \$4,063,137 for last year. And this is but a sample of the material progress made in every direction. Temporal blessings have been showered upon the people. If, at present, there is a necessary halt in the mad pursuit of the elusive wheel of fortune, may we not hope that this will give time for reflection, and meditation upon the infinitely more important necessity of providing for eternity? If so, even the financial stringency will add to the Christmas joys.

This is the season of the year when we pay special homage to Him who came to reconcile earth and heaven and re-unite man to man. It is the time when we read again the wonderful story: If our eyes are opened, so that we can perceive the light from the throne of the Infinite; if our ears are pierced, and we are thrilled with the harmonies of the celestial choirs; if, with the shepherds, we humbly bow in worship at the manger of Bethlehem, may the sweet influences of peace and good will to all mankind fill our souls, as the incense the Tabernacle in which, anciently, was manifest the glory of God.

A glad and joyful Christmas! We have old, tried friends, who have supported the "News" almost from the beginning of its career and who have followed its progress with pride, as an indication of the development of the State as well as a potent factor in that development. We have newly found friends, and others who have stood by the "News" for a number of years; we have friends in all churches and parties, and some outside of all such associations, who recognize and value the efforts of this paper to adhere faithfully, under all circumstances, to the principles of Liberty and Truth. To all we extend our cordial wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! May all be blessed, whether in giving or receiving! May no widow or orphan be forgotten! May the missionary in the field and his loved ones at home be held in brotherly remembrance! May the sick room be brightened up by the tokens of sympathy and love, and may those who are called upon to mourn find consolation! May the shadows of sorrow and care fade away, and true happiness make the season one of cheer and sunshine.

EFFORTS FOR EDUCATION.

The present year an important step has been taken in the interest of education, in connection with the meetings of the Quorums of Seventy. We refer to the adoption of a manual of study, compiled by Elder Brigham H. Roberts, the object of which is to teach theology. "A Course in Theology" is the name of the manual, and with its adoption has come renewed life into these quorums. Now they are to meet more frequently. The results of the special study will be felt in the sermons which the great body of the Church members hear frequently from the active ministry, in the various ward gatherings throughout the Church.

The Church has always been progressive. In its very infancy the Relief societies took up the work of practical charity. Then Improvement associations became the center of education for the young people, and this year the Quorums of Seventy have made a distinctive advance. These quorums number 151, and have a working force of 10,000 men, in the prime of life's activities.

This movement is in accord with the declaration that the Church quorums are to be schools of instruction. Mutual Improvement associations, once giving great emphasis to the social side of life, to general study of the world's progress and its current events, have recently undertaken serious theological study, meant more for the maturer minds. Now they can be released to some extent, to return to the field in which they have made themselves most effectively felt since their first organization.

There are advances in education which far surpass previous efforts. At Provo the beginning of a center to the Church educational system are being made, and the move is one foreshadowed during many years. Colleges and high schools have found their way into many towns and cities, and built on the foundations of the old adobe school houses. The developments of the year suggest a powerful coming generation, well trained in general education, and well equipped for Church ministry.

This is in perfect harmony with the teachings of the Prophet Joseph. In the Doctrine and Covenants we read:

"And I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Teach ye diligently, and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God that are expedient for you to understand. Of things both in heaven and in the earth and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which shall shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of nations, and the judgments which are on the land and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms."

"Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study; also by faith."

This comprises the entire field of human knowledge; Theology in its various branches; astronomy, or "things in heaven;" other sciences; for things "in the earth and under the earth," must include such branches of human inquiry as geology, physics, botany, chemistry, zoology, etc. Then, "things which have been" evidently signifies history and the knowledge of past events generally; "things which are" includes the existing order of governments, institutions, and laws, "things to come" relates to the future as far as it can be known; "things at home and abroad," must refer to political science, geography, and the doings of all nations; "perplexities of nations" points to the unsolved problems which crowd the sphere of human thought and cumber the scene of the drama of human actions, etc.

Indeed, it would not be difficult to show that this is perhaps the broadest commission that learning has ever received from a religious teacher. And when other prominent doctrines are construed with it, such, for example, as the Prophet's declaration that "the glory of God is intelligence," that a man "cannot be saved in ignorance," that the knowledge and wisdom we attain to in this life shall be ours also in the hereafter—all these constitute an obligation and incentive to study that is, we believe, without parallel in the teachings of religious leaders.

"Mormonism" rightly understood, is a synonym for education.

FOR THE FREEDOM OF ART.

The recommendation of President Roosevelt, in his Message to Congress, for the removal of the duty on works of art, meets with the approval of artists, college presidents, art museum directors, as well as the general public.

Too much can hardly be done for the cultivation of a refined taste among the masses. It has been observed that the workmen of Europe are made familiar with the masterpieces of art from their childhood, and this art influence creates a refined taste and an artistic touch in the most humble artisan, which have a great pecuniary value. Many European industries owe their success to this artistic sense, so assiduously cultivated by their governments. So that the devotion to the arts is as valuable from a business point of view as from esthetic considerations.

From a moral point of view, art is also exceedingly important. Those whose souls are touched with admiration of that which is beautiful, be it in nature or art, which is but an imitation of nature, will not find pleasure in the deeds of darkness, or the haunts of vice. Crime is ugly. It is naturally abhorrent to those who love that which is beautiful and good.

The American Free Art League is urging Congress to act, and to take up the free art bill and pass it at once. This, it is hoped, can be done without precipitating a general tariff discussion.

THE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY.

Monday, December 23, is the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Joseph, and it is suggested that Stake Presidents and Bishops of the Church everywhere, arrange for suitable memorial services on the preceding Sunday, Dec. 22. This is due to the memory of the martyred herald of the Second Advent.

Secretary Cortelyou is going to resign from the cabinet.

At a national convention it takes dollars to secure campaign quarters.

All the indications are that Santa Claus will come in a sleigh this year.

Chicago's smoke inspector has just issued a lot of new anti-smoke rules. But the smoke still rules.

All the proposed railroad legislation looks to the regulation of rates, none of it to the regulation of speed.

Every American feels that should necessity arise the victory would not be to the strong alone but to the fleet.

If Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas did not smash any trusts he at least smashed a venerable senate tradition.

It is quite likely that Abe Ruef may be given complete immunity. The time may come when he will be given a monument. Who knows?

Governor Cummins is being urged to announce himself as a candidate for the presidency. As yet he has not said with Marius, "Urge me no more, your prayers are vain."

General Kuropatkin testified in the Stoessel court-martial that the plan of war with Japan was based on the theory that the Russian fleet was invincible. It is a historic example of pride going before a fall.

The Russian professor of Sociology who was "buncoed" out of a large sum of money in New York by an obliging young Englishman whose acquaintance he made on ship-board has already accumulated a valuable experience for the illustration of sociological theories.

A bill designed to restrain the United States circuit and district courts and judges from issuing temporary injunctions against the operation of state laws has been introduced in the house by Mr. Clayton of Alabama. This is making of the medieval theory that like cures like a legal maxim.

HOW TRUTH CONQUERS.

When the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was about to be established, the instrument selected by the Almighty to lay the foundation, was told in no ambiguous terms, that he was to be the object of the malice of the wicked. His name was to be mentioned for evil, as well as good, in all the world. This has been literally fulfilled. It is being fulfilled today of his successors in the high and holy calling. It is being fulfilled of his followers, to the last.

But this is not strange. Down the vista of ages we frequently see the malefactor on the throne, and the standard bearer of peace and good will, of liberty and light, on the cross. Were there ever any great reformers who escaped the condemnation of their blind fellow-men, whose eyes they were called upon to open? Socrates was given the poisoned cup. The Greatest of all was crowned with thorns. Everyone of His disciples was pursued unto death. Nearly every great leader of the now popular churches was misrepresented, imprisoned, martyred. The chain of the martyrs is almost endless.

Such opposition, however, does not retard the progress of the work that is of God. This truth is well illustrated in the history of the early Christian churches. In no age were the tongues of evil more busily engaged than that age, the followers of the Nazarene were represented as superstitious and ignorant worshipers of an executed traitor. They were represented as sensual, as atheists, as disloyal to their country. And all such stories were circulated with some apparent foundation. For, did not the Nazarenes call each other brothers and sisters? And did they not preach the duty of brotherly love? Did they not worship a "king" of whom the Roman emperor took no cognizance? Were they not traitors, then? Did they not believe in "eating the flesh and drinking the blood" of one whom they called the "holy child?" What fearful secrets were they concealing in their meetings? Did they not refuse to pay homage to the pagan deities? Were they not, then, atheists? Everything considered, there was, apparently, more foundation for these stories than there is for any of the evil reports ever circulated concerning the leaders of the Church in this age.

There is a treatise extant by Minucius Felix in which it is shown that the Christians of his time were not even permitted to hold public meetings. To confess the Christian religion was then a great crime. The little work by the Latin father just mentioned consists of a dialogue between a pagan and a Christian. The principal arguments of the former are derived from the common charges made against the sect at that time, and which undoubtedly were currently accepted as true. He pictured the followers of Jesus as an impious sect that practised, as religion, lewd, cruel, and absurd rites. He says, for example, that "having assembled the sexes and all the relations of kindred, they tied a dog to the stand which contained the only light, and then throwing the offal beyond the end of the string, they induced the dog to overthrow the lamp, that in the dark, the assembly might practise promiscuous lewdness." And such stories were told and believed among the honorable and reasonable men of that age. That was one reason why it was so easy to kindle the flames of persecution, on any pretext, or no pretext.

But, notwithstanding all, the work of redemption went on. Evil reports were lived down by the disciples. They conquered by their patient, brotherly kindness, and forbearance. It is the lesson of those ages that what man actually is, not what others say he is, counts, in the struggle against error and falsehood. Justin Martyr describes his fellow-believers as follows: "After receiving the Christian doctrine, we abandoned the pagan deities, and through His Son, worshiped Him who is the only uncreated God. Those of us who before delighted in impurities now rejoice in sobriety; those who practised the magical arts now have devoted themselves to the benevolent and eternal Father; those who sought to acquire wealth, above all things, now have their possessions common, and give to him that needeth; those who hated and slaughtered each other, and being of different tribes, had no intercourse, after the appearance of Christ, living in the same communion, pray for enemies and endeavor to convert those that unjustly hate us."

By such means they conquered. And by such means truth is always made strong to overcome the forces of evil.

THE HOARDERS' CHANCE.

"We do not often take the risk of volunteering financial counsel, but the present situation tempts us beyond resistance. Do not speculate; do not buy what you can not afford to keep as an investment; and do not buy anything about which you have no knowledge; but if you have money which you shall not need, and which is unproductive now, put it into the best securities. There are standard stocks, with an uninterrupted dividend-paying record of many years, and if you have an honest and well informed business man among your intimates, he will help you choose. Through buying now with this prudence, a large profit is near certainty. There is no doubt that values will go back, not to their former height perhaps, but far, far above the level of today."

There is so much soundness in this paragraph, which is taken from an eastern journal, that we take pleasure in reproducing it, and in adding that the counsel it gives is just as appropriate to Utah stocks as it is to those of New York. Some of our great financial and industrial institutions, whose dividend record has been unbroken for years, are now selling at prices which, not long in the future, will be looked back on as ridiculous. Some of them, if bought today, will return to the investor from the dividends alone, from seven to nine per cent per annum, or more, on his outlay, to say nothing of the likelihood of future advances. If we have any hoarders in the community, this would certainly seem the time of times for them to utilize their means.

If good, old Santa Claus brings this City, for Christmas, an efficient Peace Society in working order, he is entitled to a monument.

Mr. Stuyvesant Fish takes himself rather more seriously than the public takes him.