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“Peace,” 1905 January 8.

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January 8th, 1905.

P E A C E -

At the beginning of the 19th century, war was a trade, the standing armies of Europe were chiefly armies of hirelings. At the beginning of the 20th century the hireling soldier is not the man of glory; no longer the hero. The people fight the nations cause which seems the cause of honor and of justice. Current among military men is the proverb - "The army is today, the nation in arms."

There is a human interest in combat. People everywhere manifest intense interest in the wars of nations and the whole world has shown unusual interest in the war between mighty Russia and what was believed to be pigmy Japan. I shall not recite the details of the war. We know the awful story but too well and the truth of Tolstoi's thought of the awful horror of war has been driven home to us. We have had enough of war; mankind is longing for peace. Enough human lives have been sacrificed. There has been enough of an out-pouring of the offering of blood, more terrible than the ancient blood sacrifices. The heart and the reason of mankind are demanding peace and not war. The human heart is too loving and the human mind too just ever again to glorify a Napoleon, genius though he be - wanton in sacrifice of his own devoted followers.. Port Arthur has fallen in blaze of glory and in blood of sacrifice. The sacrifice has been great, and there is glory enough for all. May the fall of Port Arthur lead to peace. If President Roosevelt, as representative of these United States, as mediator, shall smooth the way to peace, there will be rejoicing throughout the civilized world. Russia needs peace. Russia needs the best thought of her statesmen and the loyal hearts of her true patriots to solve her all-important internal problems. Russia is a great nation. Whatever we Jews , with full justification, may think concerning Russian cruelty and inhumanity, and whatever we Americans, non-Jews, with full justification may think of Russian despotism and oppression, Russia is the mighty empire and is destined, according to its natural and historic development, to be one of the great nations of earth. Japan needs peace, for the still further advance of her wonderful development since the

Island Empire was opened to the world by our own Commodore Perry, whose statue stands in our Park and which should front the Lake, the scene of his glory. Japan is destined to be a great nation. Under its leadership there may come a new development of the East, not according to the power and the standards of the occident, but as the East should develop, according to the genius of the Orient.

Let us not glorify war. Let us glorify peace. All honor to the bravery and the courage and the daring of the soldiers who fight the nation's cause. Whatever the bravery and the courage and the daring, the awful horror of war is there, - a brave Makaroff, with his mighty battle-ship, and all her crew going down to destruction; Stoessel is heroic, give him full meed of honor, and honor, too, to the daring and resourceful Nogi, but remember the untiring and the undaunted thousands, the thousands unknown to glory and fame, who suffer and bleed and die.

War may make men brave; let us not surround it with a false heroism and a false glory. Let us learn to honor the intelligent heroism of brave men and women who fight the battle against plague and pestilence, who fight to save life, and not to destroy life. Honor the moral courage, the rare moral courage, bold enough to fight the forces of evil that darken our modern civilization, bold enough to strike at the root of moral plague and pestilence and corruption. Honor the physical courage of our army of industrial heroes who do the hard and the dangerous work of the world, brave men, facing danger and difficulty on sea, on land, and in the bowels of the earth. 'Tis a higher heroism to fight and to sacrifice in these battles. Tis a nobler heroism to do and dare in in the betterment of the civilization of mankind. The poet Milton speaks truth - "Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war."

The nobler civilization is not eager for armament, but disarmament, The ability to fight may be the safeguard of peace; but there are times when there is danger and not safety in nations being armed for war. Militarism and despotism, historically are joined together, but the rule of might is not the rule of right. Militarism, compelling the standing armies of Europe puts a burden upon the nations, is a drag upon the progress of the people, and hinders the advance of the highest civiliza-

tion. The nations will disarm as individuals have disarmed, perhaps not now - the world is not ready - but ultimately. 'Tis our idea. "Peace unwelcomed conquers every wrong."

The duel is no more and man is still brave. War will be no more and men will still be brave. Justice is not decided by swords or by guns. Right is not always with conquering might. War will be no more and war will not be justifiable save in defense of the national life - save to establish justice when all the ways of peace have failed. The time is coming when the world will not suffer the injustice of nation against nation. Weak nations will appeal from the decision of the threatening sword - asking protection of the strong. They will demand and they will receive justice in the supreme court of the nations, whose decree will be obeyed by the nations.

The story of the century is a story of progress, prophetic of good and not of evil. Arbitration is no dream, it is a reality. In the nineteenth century we had more than one-hundred cases of international arbitration. Today the United States is establishing permanent arbitration treaties with the great powers of the world.

The law of the nations will be established. Individual does not attack individual - the state prohibits. State does not war upon state - the nation prohibits. Nation does not war upon nation - the world prohibits. It is not today nor will it be tomorrow, but the day is coming when there shall be an alliance of all the great nations to keep peace and to establish justice in the world.

Micah, a Hebrew prophet, and Isaiah, a seer in Israel, more than 2500 years ago, in an age of warfare beheld the vision of peace. Nations shall beat swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning-hooks. Glorifying the arts of peace rather than the art of war.

Here is revealed a truer understanding of Jewish Messianic thought and hope. Wonderful was the vision ~~was the~~ of our Jewish seers! Is it dream and vision only? Still 'tis the hope of the world -

"Till the war-drum throbs no longer and the battle-flags are furled
In the parliament of man the federation of the world."

America is a world-power, strong and mighty in battle but not a world-conquerer. The United states is first among the nations, glorious because of its hundred years of peace. Our victories are victories of peace and not of war. The young giant of the West is strong and mighty but just and gentle. America's flag must not be stained with the blood of conquest. 'Tis the flag of honor, of justice, our loved flag of freedom.

The peace conference at The Hague marked an advance in the history of mankind, and still more notable will be the advance when a second peace conference assembles at the call of President Roosevelt. The civilization of mankind demands peace and not war. Nation is dependent upon nation as never before in the history of the world. Nation is bound to nation by chords of steel through which thrill the electric pulse-beat of the nations. Over the continents - under the seas - round the whole great world. Nation is bound to nation by bonds of brotherhood. No longer do we believe as the ancients believe that the men of other nations are barbarians and only half human. The Jewish teaching of the unity of God and the unity of mankind have become a Christian teaching, have become a world belief. God is one the God of all the nations. Man is one and all men are brothers. The dawn of peace of which John Ruskin sang, is breaking.

"Put off, put off your mail, O Kings,
And beat your brands to dust!
Your hands must lean to surer grasp,
Your heart a better trust.

"Oh, bend aback the lance's point,
And break the helmet bar,
A noise is in the morning wind,
But not the note of war.

"Upon the grassy mountain paths
The glittering hosts increase.
They come! they come! How fair their feet!
They come who publish peace."