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LONDON PEACE SOCIETY

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Till, death-struck by the sudden blight  
Of withering shot or steel;  
But that a soldier, fellow-man,  
Struck down in war's dread game,  
*Should get no burial from his clan,  
No grave from foemen claim;*  
But thus be left to rot away,  
Neglected and forgot,  
As he had been a beast of prey,  
To death by hunters shot!

Oh, War, sad War! how hast thou crossed  
The onward path of man,  
Since Eden's peaceful bowers were lost,  
And homicide began!  
Oh for the time when thy fierce cry  
No longer Earth shall shock,  
And all thy tools shall, rusting, lie  
In arsenal and dock.  
Yea, come the time, blest Concord's reign!  
When men, grown wise and good,  
Shall form, co-linked by love's bright chain.  
One world-wide brotherhood!

\* A fact in the Crimean War, which suggested these lines.

#### LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

This Society, though established later than the first peace Society in America, has long been the leading one in the world, and every year vindicates more and more its claims to this pre-eminence. The sketch found in its recent annual report and proceedings shows its wise, untiring and effective activity, and is full of encouragement to all co-laborers in the same great cause. We select enough to illustrate these positions.

ITS FIFTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY—took place May 18th, with an "attendance much larger than for several years past." The speeches and other proceedings were much as usual; but the point of chief interest was the controversy still pending with our own country. We quote the resolution, moved and seconded by two distinguished veterans in the cause:—

"That this meeting, while deeply regretting that the negotiations lately carried on between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States for the settlement of the differences existing between them have not proved successful, cannot for a moment admit the possibility of such differences leading to so measureless a calamity as a war between the two countries. This meeting calls upon all Christian men on both sides of the Atlantic to use their utmost influence to calm public feeling, so as to restore and perpetuate those friendly and cordial relations by which two nations between whom their exist so many ties of common kindred, language, and religion, ought to be forever inseparably united."

ROBERT CHARLETON, Esq., in support of his resolution, said:—"A war between two countries under any circumstances might be properly described as a measureless calamity; but it would be peculiarly terrible between two countries of a common kindred, language, and religion. My own personal case probably represents that of many others. Nearly one half of my own personal relatives have long resided in America, and are citizens of the American Union; besides which, some of the dearest friends I have are living there. There is no work of any kind of a public nature in which in the whole course of my life I have been engaged with more satisfaction than in that of co-operating with them in the work of the Freedmen's Aid Society in feeding and educating the colored race. As an Englishman I feel it a matter of deep regret that there should exist such a subject of dispute as is implied in the Alabama claims. I do not inquire whether what has been done, has been in accordance with those diabolical laws, the laws of war, or in violation of them; but it is equally atrocious that anything of the kind should go forward in a professedly civilized and Christian country. The present uneasiness is nothing more than a result of the principle enunciated in Scripture, 'as

a man soweth so shall he reap,' and 'they that sow the wind, shall reap also the whirlwind.'

"One great object of the Peace Society is to enlighten the populations professing Christianity on the evils and wickedness of war. It would be to me a very pleasing reflection, if the very persevering exertions of the Peace Society should contribute to the promotion of such a healthful tone of moral sentiment in regard to public matters, as shall render the occurrence of such an affair as led to the Alabama dispute a matter of moral impossibility."

SAMUEL BOWLEY, Esq., in seconding the resolution, said:—"My great confidence of avoiding war between those countries lies in the attitude of Christian people. If this great principle of peace were held as strongly by Christian people generally, as it is by the Friends, there would be no danger of such a calamity. There are persons who say it is impossible to carry out this principle, and that certain consequences would result from the attempt. I have nothing to do with consequences. Where principle is concerned, I accept the principle of peace as that which came from God to us. I feel that there is a beautiful harmony between the laws of God and the truest interests of man—that all that is laid down in the New Testament would be in practice, if we had faith to realise it, accordant with our true political interests. I trust the day is not far distant when this principle will permeate all Christian nations. Even now I see indications of it. People are beginning to look at the frightful sacrifice of life which is caused by war. I do not believe that simple Christianity would be the means of carrying this out—it would probably be decided on some lower commercial ground; but I am anxious that we should continue consistently to uphold the standard of Christianity. I cannot believe that war is possible between England and America; I cannot believe that those who have just passed through the horrors of the recent contest, are prepared again to have recourse to this desolating scourge. It is the duty of the members of the Peace Society to unite in earnest prayer to God to avert such an untold calamity."

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES.—Receipts £3,937; expenses, £3,433; balance in hand, £504. An income for the year equivalent in our currency to \$21,000, with a balance to the next year's account of more than \$3,500. Such facts put to shame the meagre liberality of our friends here to the cause.

AGENTS.—Three have been constantly employed besides the Society's Secretary and others at its office. The report gives a brief general account of the places visited, of the 300 lectures delivered during the year, and other details of the Society's operations. We are very favorably impressed with the general and increasing readiness, sometimes eagerness, to hear on the subject. "Sometimes 1,000 have been gathered, frequently 500, and even at a village meeting 100 is no uncommon number." It seems that the interest is now most among working men, especially in the rural districts.

It seems very successful use has been made of the periodical press. Besides all the periodical and other issues of the Society, more than 200 periodicals, some having 200,000, one 500,000 circulation, are known to have published in their columns brief articles provided for them on various points in the cause of peace. "This has been accomplished by the regular and systematic supply of articles and paragraphs containing striking facts, statistics, arguments, and illustrations in support of the objects advocated by the Society. Upwards of eight thousand copies of such papers has been issued on a great variety of topics connected with the moral, social, economical, and political aspects of the questions of peace and war. It is impossible to ascertain the full extent to which these have obtained insertion in the columns of the newspapers, as we frequently discover by accident their appearance in journals, copies of which were not sent to the Society's office. But the Committee know that they have found a place in at least fifty of the London papers, representing every shade of political opinion, and almost every religious body in the land, and some of them enjoying an enormous circulation. They know also of at least 150 provincial papers scattered over England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, which have thrown open their pages to these missives of peace. So that it may be safely said, that they have been read by many millions of people in all parts of the United Kingdom.

(To be continued.)