
LONDON PEACE SOCIETY

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ing the service. Nor is this all ; for we are told that one regiment lost a *fifth* of its entire number in *two months*, another regiment a still larger proportion ; and, at this rate, four-fifths would perish in a single year ! More than half of the Vermont company died in less than a year, and of these only one in twenty-two, two out of the forty-four, in battle. In one case, — the company from Connecticut, — nineteen out of twenty died in less than a year ! Now, we have sent to this war more than 70,000 in all ; and, if you take the above rates of mortality, or any other we have yet seen, and calculate by the lowest one of them all, you will make the sum total of our own losses *more* than 30,000. Yet will interested demagogues deny or wink out of sight such facts as these, and conceal from the people as much as they can of the grim-visaged, blood-besmeared monster.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

WE have of late been so engrossed with the claims and operations of our cause at home, as to neglect too much the labors of our coadjutors in other lands. They have been more abundant than usual ; and from the report and speeches at the recent anniversary of the London Peace Society, we shall give pretty large extracts which cannot fail to interest every true friend of peace.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT.

At no period, perhaps, since the first establishment of the Peace Society, have its friends assembled at their Annual Meeting under circumstances more adapted to awaken their liveliest interest, and to stimulate their most strenuous endeavors, than they do this year. The wonderful events by which God has come forth out of his place to shake terribly the earth, have furnished occasion through which to test the power and prevalence of many a principle which had long lain apparently dormant in the bosom of European society. And amid many things developed by these agitations, over which the friends of humanity have deeply to lament, it is impossible not to recognize the fact, as it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge it, that the principles which the Peace Society has been laboring to maintain and diffuse, have been seen during this portentous crisis to exert a much larger amount of influence over the conduct of individuals and communities than they have ever done before during any period of European history. Not slowly nor grudgingly, but with humble joy and thankfulness, ought we to mark these tokens of the progressive triumph of truth, albeit at present most partial and incomplete. On the other hand, we would not forget that this universal shaking of the nations, by inflaming the passions of men, and bringing their social and political interests into apparent collision, affords ground for deep and trembling solicitude, lest there should arise another fierce European convulsion, amid the stormy turbulence of which, the still small voice which was beginning to arrest the ear, and charm the heart of the nations, should for a time be silenced or drowned.

Soon after the last Annual Meeting, the Committee, observing with deep regret that the deplorable war between the United States and Mexi-

co continued to rage with unabated fury, deemed it their duty to make an effort to bring their views under the attention of the Governments of those two countries, as well as some of the leading European powers. A Memorial on the subject was accordingly sent to J. K. Polk, Esq., President of the United States, and to Santa Anna, President of the Republic of Mexico, respectfully to remonstrate with them, as the heads of their respective Governments, against further protracting a conflict so inconsistent with the spirit of the gospel, and so injurious to the best interests of humanity. An Address was at the same time adopted and forwarded to the British Government, and to the different Monarchs of Europe, to implore their friendly mediation to adjust the differences between the two belligerent nations. At the breaking out of the civil war among the Swiss Cantons, the Committee prepared and sent an Address 'To the inhabitants of Switzerland, who profess to be followers of the Prince of Peace;' which, through the kindness of some friends in that country, obtained, it is believed, a considerable circulation.

The great excitement produced in France and throughout Europe, by the recent revolution in that country, seemed to present a suitable opportunity for an Address to the French people, to assure them of the friendly and pacific disposition of this country towards theirs, and to urge upon them earnestly the great Christian principles of Peace and mutual forbearance, which their peculiar circumstances so especially demand. A copy of this Address has been sent to each member of the Provisional Government, and all other means within the reach of the Committee have been employed to insure for it the necessary publicity.

Several events of importance have also occurred at home, which engaged the attention of the Committee, and seemed to demand of them especial vigilance and activity. One of these was the Septennial Election of members to represent the people in the Commons House of Parliament. It was felt that great exertions should be made at so critical a time to bring the true character of the War system broadly and prominently under the eye of both the constituencies and the candidates soliciting their suffrages. Some friends of the Society, feeling the importance of this, kindly and generously subscribed a considerable sum to enable the Committee, by distribution of tracts and other practicable means, to keep the subject before the attention of the electors, with a view, if possible, to influence their minds to choose such men as their representatives, as would by vote and voice in the legislature discourage the maintenance and extension of the military system. Bills and tracts, of a kind appropriate to the occasion, were circulated in very large numbers, before and during the elections, through every part of the country.—Another field of especial labor unexpectedly but very urgently presented itself to the Committee about the end of the last year. During the months of November and December, some of the public papers began to write articles of a very warlike tone on the subject of our national defences. Plans and proposals were put forth and urged upon the Government, with great frequency and emphasis, to make an immediate and enormous addition to the military establishments of the country—to extend our coast defences—replenish our arsenals—strengthen our fortifications—augment the regular army—and embody and organize the militia to the extent of 150,000 men. The publication, shortly after, of certain letters and communications from individuals of high rank and influence in the country, together with the significant intimations given in Parliament, seemed to invest those newspaper reports with a degree of authority which warranted and demanded the most serious attention of the friends of Peace throughout the land. It was felt that all this bruit of military preparation, if it were permitted to go unchecked, could not fail to exert a most pernicious influence both on

the character of our own population, in fomenting warlike passions and desires among them, and on our relations with neighboring countries, by naturally awakening their jealousy and alarm. The Committee therefore deemed itself justified in adopting every possible means in its power to create and elicit a salutary public opinion in opposition to this dangerous project.

The liberality of their friends having, by the formation of a special fund, placed the means at their disposal, a system of peaceful but vigorous agitation was commenced and carried on with great perseverance and success. A Memorial was sent to Her Majesty's Ministers. Circulars, tracts, and hand-bills on the subject were distributed in large quantities. A series of public meetings was held in the neighborhood of London, at most of which the attendance was crowded, and the responses of those assembled, to all sentiments condemnatory of War, and of whatever measures could tend to foment and provoke it, were prompt, unanimous, and enthusiastic. Similar meetings were held, and with similar results, in almost every part of England, and contributed not a little, we cannot but believe, to stifle and shame down schemes of military ambition and aggrandizement, which before that had been seriously entertained, and which in all probability, but for that timely and emphatic utterance of public opinion, would have been imposed upon the country. The number of Petitions presented to Parliament in the course of the year, either against the increase of the military establishments and the organization of the militia, or in favor of arbitration as the means of settling international differences, amounts to about 300.

The present condition of Europe is one of deep interest and anxiety to all lovers of Peace, and calls loudly for earnest supplication 'to Him who ruleth in the kingdom of men,' that amidst the tumult of the people, and the threatening clash of contending interests, he would lift up his voice of majesty and mercy, 'which is mightier than the noise of many waters,' and say to the nations, 'Be still, and know that I am God.'

In the midst, however, of all these commotions, it is our happiness to hold fast by the conviction, that great principles like that which we are called to advocate, possessing in themselves an inherent and indestructible vitality, not only never perish, but are always helped forward to their ultimate development, by all those agitations, whether in their immediate issue favorable or adverse, which may stir the public mind on the questions to which they relate. Like the self-contained and expansive force which nature has given to vegetative life, so that it can rend its way through the granite rock, and strengthen its grasp on the soil, amid the fiercest strife of the elements, so, great truths are instinct with a tendency no less irresistible in its operation, to emerge into light through all obstacles of prejudice and passion, and to dilate into maturity and vigor, amid the tumult of nations, and the stormy 'strife of tongues.' Indeed, it may be doubted whether the past history of the world does not warrant the belief that it is in the midst of social and political convulsions, such as have recently shaken Europe, that all good and great principles have most rapidly advanced. And if such be the case, ought we not to regard these portentous events as a solemn summons from the voice of God to renewed and redoubled activity in the great cause to which we are pledged under his authority, if, peradventure, by our instrumentality the pure and lofty morality of the Gospel may be introduced and embodied as an element of influence and power in the reconstruction of European Society? The ancient Egyptians were wont to watch the periodical inundations of their great river, as the season of hope and effort for their future harvest, and when the turbid flood began to subside, they went forth to cast their bread-corn upon the surface of the retiring waters, which, sinking into the

rich alluvial soil formed by the overflow of the river, soon covered the country with the signs of a most robust and luxuriant fertility. So, after the sudden outburst of revolutionary violence which has rushed like a torrent and deluged the face of Europe, it may be well for us to watch the gradual subsidence of the flood, as a time most auspicious for sowing the good seed with which we are entrusted, that we also having thus cast our bread upon the waters, may find it after many days."

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS. — More than two thousand pounds sterling, or about \$10,000, have been the last year given to this cause by its friends in England; more than twice as much as our Society has ever received in one year.

SPEECHES.

CHARLES HINDLEY, M. P., *the President*. — The character of the present times is very different from what it formerly was. Every one must be peculiarly struck with the present aspect of the world, in its bearing on that great object which, as a Society, it is our desire to accomplish. Upon former anniversaries we have viewed the question of peace rather as an abstract one than one immediately to be dealt with by the nations of the earth. Having enjoyed, for so long a period, peace in Europe, we little expected that, at this time, we should see so many nations embroiled in war. We little imagined, that the events which have taken place during the last three or four months could, by any possibility, have happened. It would be quite unbecoming in us this evening to occupy our time in a defence of our principles. I trust that our own consciences approve of the steps which we have taken, and that we have so investigated the whole subject as to need no argument in order to convince us that the principles of peace are the principles that ought to be maintained. The point with which we have now to deal is, how can we bring the great question of peace to bear upon the happiness and prosperity of our fellow-men? I am not deterred from grappling with this question by the consideration of the smallness of our numbers or our influence. I remember what the prophet said when he alluded to the storm, but the Lord was not in the storm; when he alluded to the fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. At length came a still small voice, — it was the voice of God, and prevailed. I rest the success of this Society upon the excellency of its principles, and I look to the blessing of God upon our exertions for the establishment of that peace upon earth which it is the great object of the gospel to bestow.

At the same time, I think we ought to use means; and I believe that, at the present moment, we are called upon to take the most decisive course in reference to the question of peace. What have we before us? Nation rising against nation, the Germans attacking the Danes, the Danes attacking the Germans, the Swedes threatening to assist the Danes, and the Russians looking on, anxious only to await a favorable opportunity for interfering in the quarrel. The king of Sardinia is leaving his own business to meddle with that of other people, and has attempted to interfere with the constitution of a neighboring state. I deeply regret that there should be any interference on the part of one state with another. If the people choose to mend their constitution, let them have the trouble and the duty of doing it to themselves.

I hope that a general war may be averted; but my fears almost preponderate above my hopes. What would be the consequences of a general war? That which has always been the case, an immense number slain, many families in mourning, many a district in affliction, and car-

nage, devastation, and destruction spreading wherever the battle-field is beheld. As to the end, all matters would remain pretty much the same as to the different kingdoms of the earth, and the territory they would occupy; but they would all be saddled with what they find even in peace a very inconvenient thing, namely, a very large national debt. Is it not better, before the nations of the world begin to enter upon those contests, that the friends of peace should endeavor to direct their attention to the consequences, and entreat them to see whether peaceable measures cannot be brought to bear on their affairs? The other day, when Lord Palmerston was asked his opinion as to the affairs of Denmark and Russia, I heard his answer with great satisfaction; for his lordship stated, that there was every reason to believe they had accepted the mediation of England. I regret, however, that I am compelled to entertain some doubt on this subject. Is it not the duty of this Society to appoint a deputation, and implore Lord Palmerston to forward that mediation in every way? For aught I know to the contrary, there are at this moment despatches flying over every part of Europe, stating that, unless this and that is done, war will be the consequence. I am desirous that all those matters should be conducted openly and above board; that every country might have an opportunity of determining what ought to be done; and, having come to a conclusion upon the matter, let them act upon it.—If I knew how, I should like to scrape together, on the table before me, 100,000*l.*, (\$500,000), to be devoted to the Peace Society. We ought to have funds. I have never before spoken about money, because our duty was confined principally to the distribution of tracts at home, which could be done at a small expense; but I should like to see such funds as would enable us to disseminate tracts in every part of Europe. I should like to see deputations sent to France, and other places; and means taken to influence public opinion, in order that they might preserve that peace which is so advantageous to society. I have never spoken to any military man in the House of Commons, who had seen a battle-field, that did not deplore war. The only difference between them is this—the military man thinks, that in the present state of society, people must fight just like mad dogs, and therefore be abandoned to their fate.

J. BROTHERTON, M. P.—It has been wisely observed, that war is the greatest evil that can afflict a nation, and the worst policy that it can pursue. We see what war has already cost this country. Even since the Peace of 1815, this country has spent 600 millions of money (\$3,000,000,000) in keeping up a war establishment. It has taken 800 millions during that period to pay the interest of the national debt, which debt was incurred by war. I have been told that the Affghan war cost this country thirteen millions. Every foot-soldier cost them 50*l.*, and every horse-soldier 100*l.*, per annum. It has been said, that the best way to keep peace is to maintain a large standing army. This sum, however, is the premium we pay for being kept from war.

If all nations were governed by the principles of Christianity, wars would cease, and we ought to show nations that there is no real security in being guarded by men of a profession directly contrary to the law of God. How can we expect protection, when we violate that law? The recent French revolution has proved the fallacy of supposing that a standing army is a protection to a Government—their best protection consists in the affections of the people.

REV. JOHN BURNET.—The principle of the resolution is this, that to prepare for defence is to provoke aggression. Why, that is always the case. Shake your fist in a man's face, and what is he disposed to do?

That is the principle upon which Government is proceeding. They have a suspicion of continental nations, and they erect fortifications, and increase their army and navy. As soon as we raise a regiment, those nations raise one; as soon as we build a ship of war, they build another; and there is no end to this process. If war could really be justifiable, this is just the way by which all nations make their way to it. If this be the necessary consequence of what is called self-defence, and we find our Government going upon this system, I think we are bound to sustain the Peace Society in opposing the proposed increase of our naval and military defences.

I know that on this and many other occasions, it is expected that we should all disavow our connection with politics. 'We have nothing to do with politics,' is expected to be the motto of these public meetings. I never held such a motto. If I choose to touch politics, they are my proper province. Why? First, because I pay for them, and secondly, because I am responsible for them. If you mean to decry the right of the public, Christian or unchristian, to meddle with the politics of the empire, you are attempting to deny to them the rights of manhood. I always have meddled with them, and I always will. I make this statement, not to convey my own views merely, but to induce every man and every woman to meddle with them. It is when you have learned to handle politics, and when you let the Government see that you know how to handle them, that you may expect good and peaceable measures. I am, therefore, quite in keeping with the objects of this Society when I advocate the inalienable right to meddle with politics. Let this cry against politics be heard no more, or only be heard to be treated with scorn and derision.

Look, however, at the conduct of the Society with regard to its resistance of plans for increasing the national defences. What would have been the case if this Society had not been in existence when that subject was started? Millions of money would have been expended on that measure. This Society is the ready expression of the minds of the peaceable in every part of the country. It is at all times a trumpet that you can blow. When there is danger of war, it is a machine that you can work for the purpose of peace. It came out on the militia question, and defeated that measure. It came out on the question of defences, and it every where spread such a public opinion, that the idea of fortifying our sea-girt isle was altogether abandoned, and some little improvement in fortifications already existing, was substituted for the mighty idea of walling in England up to heaven. If the Society is found so exceedingly useful, why should it not be supported?

Now, what made, in the estimation of Government, these new fortifications necessary? Why, the wonderful doings of Louis Philippe. We were afraid that he would come to our country; and so he did come; but it was in a little cockle-shell of a boat, and he left his fleet and his army behind him. We were going to prepare for this ogre of a man by an increase of our taxes. If we did not increase our income-tax, Louis Philippe would be upon us. We did *not* increase it, Louis Philippe *is* upon us, and we have not the smallest objection to it. We would much rather see him at Claremont as he now is, than at Dover, landing, or attempting to land, with 300,000 men.

If we find that the Members of the House of Commons go into it as the representatives of the people, — that they are regarded *as* the representatives of the people, — that the practice of the House keeps them in mind that they are the representatives of the people, — I think we have a right to call upon them to listen to the voice of the people. But they have learned to laugh at the people. If a petition is presented for peace, we find it is received with 'laughter, and oh! oh!' I have seen in reports of

the debates, these very intimations connected with petitions against the national defences. If they do this, what are *we* to do? Why, the very next time that one of these members comes and asks for a vote, let us laugh at him, and say, "Oh, oh!" I shall do so, and he cannot blame me for following his own example.

The man that thinks force right on his part, must think it right on the part of his neighbor, and, when had recourse to, the strongest must prevail. Is not that the lion and the tiger principle? Why do we not adopt the war principle amongst ourselves? Why do we settle our differences in courts of law? Just because we prefer arbitration; and all that we ask is, the extension of this principle to nations. Tell your Foreign Secretary, that you do not want his services unless he is able to keep the peace. If you had a police-constable always getting into rows, you would discharge him; and I would say to Lord Palmerston, or any one else holding the office of Foreign Secretary, "You are my servant,—I pay you,—and, if you cannot keep the peace, I have no further need of your services." I would counsel the Members of Parliament who represent our principles, not to be talking against army and navy estimates, but to bring in a bill making it part and parcel of the Constitution to seek for arbitration in all national differences; and, if Government do not carry it out, let them stand exposed to the impeachment they deserve. Let this be done, and the Society will then pursue its work with the prospect, nay, with the certainty of success.

REV. JAMES LONG, *Episcopal Missionary from Calcutta*.—I have seen the benefits conferred by the Peace Society both at home and abroad; and I regard it as eminently calculated to promote the glory of God, and the good of men. I rejoice to have an opportunity of co-operating, as a clergyman of the English Church, in the designs of so noble and excellent a Society. I have labored among Hindoos for eight years, a large number of whom have renounced idolatry, and are fully acquainted with English literature; but *their greatest objection to the reception of Christianity is the warlike spirit manifested by those who profess it*. They read the history of England, and then tell us, "You say that Jesus Christ taught his disciples to love their enemies; but we find that you English Christians have been engaged for hundreds of years in killing the French, and other nations! Your history abounds with scenes of blood, which are approved of by your best and even your religious writers, while your clergy offer thanks to God, as if he were a God of blood, like our Kale, when you gain a battle." They say, moreover, that since England put her foot in India, a century ago, there has been nothing but war; and I am sorry to say I cannot contradict them. This objection to the reception of Christianity is the most difficult to answer of any I have to deal with. I have for twelve years been advocating the principles of this Society; and as long as I have breath and strength, I will continue to advocate them.

OBJECTIONS TO WAR RULERS.

OR FIFTEEN REASONS WHY A WARRIOR OUGHT NOT TO BE A LEGISLATOR.

DURING the late elections in England, the friends of peace there circulated in hand-bills and placards, the following "fifteen reasons why a warrior ought not to be a legislator." We can endorse these reasons as

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