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AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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ANGLO-SAXON INFLUENCE FOR PEACE.

In his recent admirable book, "The New Era," Dr. Strong has this to say about Anglo-Saxon combination in order to compel the peace of the world :

"It is devoutly to be hoped that the various branches of the Anglo-Saxon race will sustain such relations to each other in the future that their overwhelming superiority of power will be able to compel the world's peace and deliver the nations from the vampire of militarism."

This idea is not new. It has been expressed frequently of late, by Andrew Carnegie and others. Such a sentiment appeals so strongly to Anglo-Saxon pride and also to the growing desire of many Englishmen and Americans that "the vampire of militarism" may be destroyed that one is inclined to applaud the statement without stopping to think carefully what it really means. It seems to us, however, on more serious reflection, that the thought advanced by Dr. Strong, if we grasp his meaning, is far from being either a right or a wise one.

In the first place, let us suppose that Anglo-Saxon peoples by combining, either now or at some future time, could compel the peace of the world. What right would they have to do it in this way? Dr. Strong's thought is that this would be done by physical force, potential at least, if not active. He says (page 74) :

"No nation can now become or remain a first-class power without an adequate physical basis. * * * It is still true that the argument is on the side of the heaviest battalions; still true among nations that the weight of an opinion depends much on the fighting weight of the government which utters it. The wars of the future will be won or lost by the national treasury, the patent office and the census department."

This last sentence means, it seems, that the wars of the future will be won by the nation that can spend the most money on armaments, invent the deadliest weapons and put the most soldiers into the field. This is doubtless true. But even if they could do it, ought the Anglo-Saxon peoples to undertake "to compel the world's peace" by such means? Shall they make a business of inventing the deadliest instruments of war in order, at some time when their power shall have become overwhelmingly superior, to force the rest of the world into peace? We hesitate to attribute such a thought to Dr. Strong, and yet it seems to be the logic of his sentences, as the passage first quoted follows immediately on this last sentence.

It may be replied that if the Anglo-Saxon peoples were united in their purpose to compel peace it would not be

necessary to use any active measures, at least after they have grown to the proportions which it is supposed they will reach. The mere thought of what they *could* do if they *would*, would be sufficient, it may be said, to awe into a peaceful disposition all the other nations of the world.

But it is difficult to see how they could undertake any active measures "to compel the world's peace," to compel the nations of Europe, for instance, not to fight and to do away with "the vampire of militarism," without themselves having a great army and navy and extensive war preparations ready behind them. If all the Anglo-Saxon peoples in the world to-day should combine and, with their present equipments, should say to France and Germany, disarm or we will make you do it, it is not difficult to imagine the Frenchman or the German shrugging his shoulders and saying, "Well, who are you?" Even if these peoples should in a hundred years grow to five times their present numbers, or to more than five hundred millions, their efforts to compel, actually, the peace of the rest of the world would be powerless unless they had military equipments somewhat in proportion to their numbers. If they should go into this business of military preparation adequate to enforce their demand for peace upon the other nations, they would be guilty of the very sin which they were seeking to destroy. It would be a case of Satan trying to cast out Satan, and could be nothing other than a stupendous moral failure. War can never be abolished by war measures nor peace established by unpacific means.

Looking at the matter from another side, it seems to us that there is little reason to suppose that the Anglo-Saxon populations will at any conceivable date in the future be able, with all their marvellous supposed growth, to compel by physical force the peace of the world. The other populations of the earth, in Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, Japan, are also increasing in numbers and in intelligence and moral force as well, and any effort to force these vast populations into disarming and living in peace would meet with an unconquerable resistance.

Such an incredible enterprise it is perfectly certain the Anglo-Saxons will never think of undertaking. It is contrary to their genius and the whole spirit of their history. They are the least military of all civilized peoples. The greatest of the Anglo-Saxon nations has become and remains a first-class power chiefly on something very different from the "physical basis" of war. Her chief reliance, her real strength and glory are to be sought elsewhere. The Anglo-Saxons have fought for their liberties and their rights against oppression, but not to compel the rest of the world into the path of duty. They will "compel the world's peace;" of that we are profoundly convinced. But it will be by their moral force and disinterestedness; by the character of their religious and political institutions; by their increasing freedom

from "entangling relations" with other nations. They have won the great battles of peace at Geneva and at Paris, but by weapons which were not carnal. The element of physical force, present appearances to the contrary notwithstanding, will play a less and less part in their victories over mankind. By holding up steadily and exemplifying the great ideals of liberty, equality, the brotherhood of humanity, by loyalty to God and devotion to man they will force the world to disarm and to live at peace. We cannot doubt that it was this element of their power "to compel the world's peace" that motivated the sentences of Dr. Strong alluded to above, even though this does not appear on the surface.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By the time this number of the *ADVOCATE* reaches our readers the great Exposition will have closed. After deducting all its undesirable features, some few of which have been a standing mortification to many of the best friends of the Fair, it has been an unparalleled success. The numbers that have visited Jackson Park have been, considering the financial condition of the country, to say the least, remarkable. No such material exhibition of the products of human ingenuity and skill has ever been made at any one time and place. The Congresses held in connection with the Exposition have surpassed the expectations of those who organized them. The meeting together in a most friendly and cordial way of peoples from all over the world has been one of the most marked features of the Fair. The best results of the Fair will come from this peaceful intermingling of peoples.

Early in October a movement was originated in Chicago which, if successful, will make the Exposition of untold value to mankind. Mr. William E. Blackstone, who first suggested the idea of a religious congress prepared a memorial to the governments of the world in behalf of arbitration. This memorial has been adopted by the World's Fair Commissioners, by the Board of Directors, by the British Commissioners, and endorsed by many distinguished individuals who have attended the Fair. The petition is to be sent to the most prominent men of the country for their signature and then to Congress. When completed, a facsimile of it is to be presented to each of the governments of the world. Nearly every foreign Commissioner at the Fair has signed the memorial, which is as follows:

TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD: The undersigned, citizens of many countries gathered at the Columbian exposition in Chicago, in the United States of America, recognizing the advantages accruing to those nations which have pursued the policy of arbitrating in-

ternational disputes, and desiring that the like benefits be enjoyed by all nations, and deeming this a fitting opportunity, do hereby join in this memorial to all our various governments, praying that they will unitedly agree by mutual treaties to submit for settlement by arbitration all such international questions and differences as shall fail of satisfactory solution by peaceful negotiations. And for this the petitioners will ever pray.

The Central Committee of the Interparliamentary Peace Conference recently met in Brussels. The Committee decided to request Mr. Gladstone to introduce and have discussed in the House of Commons a bill pledging the British Government to favor the establishment of a permanent international court of arbitration. It was decided also to send a circular letter to the French and Italian members of the Conference asking them to use their influence to bring about more cordial relations between France and Italy. The conference will meet at The Hague next year and will discuss the subjects of a permanent international tribunal and a permanent diplomatic bureau charged with the duty of obviating friction among the nations.

The debate on the repeal of the silver purchase law in the Senate has dragged itself wearily through the month. An effort was made to force a vote by continuous sessions, but no good came of it. Then compromise spread its net and entangled the feet of a number of repeal senators. But President Cleveland refused the snare, and at present the indications are that the filibusterers have grown tired of their game and that a vote on unconditional repeal will be reached shortly. The Senate is estimated to stand 48 to 37 in favor of unconditional repeal.

The death of M. Louis Ruchonnet, noted in our last issue, removes from the ranks of peace-workers a strong man. He was one of the foremost statesmen of Switzerland, having been twice President of the Swiss Federation and being at the time of his death a member of the Federal Council. He had done much for the more perfect unification of the laws of Switzerland and was doing much for the unification of humanity. Those of us who attended the Peace Congress at Berne last year will never forget the wisdom and the tact with which he presided over its meetings and the noble and inspiring words which he pronounced on opening and closing the Congress. He died at the age of 59 years, mourned by all Switzerland and by all in other lands who knew him.

The Columbian Peace Plow cut its first furrow on the platform of the Parliament of Religions. It was made for the Universal Peace Union by Deere & Co., Moline, Illinois, out of swords and other war material and historic relics, secured for the Columbian Liberty Bell and for this Plow, through the efforts of W. O. McDowell, of