

to come; and today it looks as though the dream of peace would be shattered for years and gory battlefields would incarnadine the civic strongholds of Christendom.

In such times there is but one recourse for the lovers of peace. They must send round the globe the ceaseless current of peaceful thoughts, exalting the glory and emprise of the reign of peace and declaring everywhere, in valley and mountain height, in school room and at the merchant's desk, in parliament and palace, in humblest homes and most honored places, that only by the reign of peace are the true interests of humanity conserved, that war is a curse and though sometimes a seeming necessity, never necessary if men are willing to be unselfish and live the larger life of love and brotherhood.

But how unlikely are such thoughts seriously entertained, even in what are known as the religious circles of society. Here comes a bishop of the Methodist Church, Earl Cranston, lately returned from a tour around the globe, who, beholding the coveted prize of the Orient for the greedy appetite of Christianity, avows that a war by which Heathendom would be subjected to the civilizing influences of Christendom, is justified at any cost, either of filthy lucre or the sacrifice of human life. Christianity is dying at home, therefore it must be strengthened and expanded abroad. If the clergy can arouse the enthusiasm of a crusade, it would be the most fortunate event in the material growth of Christendom which has occurred since Peter the Hermit hurled all Europe against the Mohammedan stronghold and sought to rescue the Holy City from the grasp of Ahti-Christ. No doubt every pulpit in the land would thunder with "patriotic" outbursts, stirring the multitudes to martial fervor, if they discerned the possibility of evangelizing all Asia with a Bible saturated with human gore and the prayers of a thousand cannon thundering at the gates of Pekin. This is the mission of the gentle Jesus; this the way "Christian" leaders since the days of Constantine and Charlemagne have ever disseminated the Bible and the tenets or Christianity. Every letter and syllable of the Creed is myriad-dyed in the blood of human sacrifices. The established church, alas, craves war, yearns for it, for without conquest she becomes moribund and threatens to offend the nostrils of civilization with the putrid corpse of Ecclesiasticism.

But there is a new day and a new religion. . . . Peace, peace everywhere, not the peace of criminal resignation, not the peace of wrong and injustice and error and despotism, not the peace of avaricious power which sways its tyrannous sceptre over the weak and

poor, not the peace of cowardice and fear, or of cringing sycophancy; but the peace of Truth and Right, and Justice and Love—let this peace be everywhere proclaimed from hut to palace and work-bench to the thrones of reigning dynasties—and ere long the forbidding clouds of horrid war will roll away and the Angel of Peace, blessing the world, will appear amid the glorified heavens, to enlighten, enoble and uplift a terrified, downtrodden and benighted age.—[The Independent Thinker.

"If."

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

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Dayton, Oregon.

Non-Political.

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