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FAMOUS PEACE TREATIES

By H. IRVING KING

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TREATY BETWEEN EMPEROR CHARLES V. AND FRANCIS I.

A Treaty of Peace That Was Longer in the Making Than in the Observance.

The treaty between the Emperor Charles V and Francis I of France is an example of a treaty which was longer in its making than it was in its observance. It is cited by all writers on international law and commentators on peace treaties in their arguments as to the binding force of a treaty signed under duress—though, as a matter of fact, every treaty signed by a defeated nation may be said to be signed under compulsion. It is also worthy of note that after the peace conference had lasted six months, the treaty had been signed and the high contracting parties to it had taken their solemn oaths to observe it, the emperor and the king challenged each other to a duel over it.

In February, 1525, the armies of France were defeated at Pavia by the armies of Charles V, emperor of Germany and king of Spain. The French king was taken prisoner and sent from the stricken field his celebrated message: "All is lost save honor." Francis was taken to Spain and moved about from one strong castle to another, the emperor refusing to see him except once when, Francis falling ill, Charles went to him and was greeted by the French king with the remark: "So you have come to see your prisoner die."

Opening of Negotiations.

As early as July 20, however, negotiations were opened at Toledo between the ambassadors of Francis—for he was still king of France and had his ambassadors—and the emperor and his advisers. The terms proposed by the imperial delegates were harsh in the extreme and amounted to virtual dismemberment of France. Henry VIII sent delegates, being anxious to form an alliance with the emperor and share in the spoils. But the English people, for once, firmly opposed Henry's policy, so he switched around to the French side and signed a treaty with the regent, Louise of Savoy, for which that astute woman paid Henry 2,000,000 crowns and gave the negotiator, Cardinal Wolsey, a pension of 100,000 crowns—a crown at that time being worth \$1.12.

The emperor gradually shated his terms and on January 14, 1526, the treaty was signed at Madrid. By it Charles was to have Burgundy and its dependencies, Francis was restored to liberty, leaving his two sons as hostages for the fulfillment of the conditions of the treaty, and peace was to

reign. During the captivity of Francis there had been a cessation of hostilities; but no sooner did Francis feel himself once more seated on his throne than he began to organize for a renewal of the war.

After waiting three months Charles sent emissaries to Francis, demanding the fulfillment of the treaty of Madrid. The king said he would have to consult the Burgundians. The Burgundians refused to be handed over. Francis would pay an indemnity for Burgundy and keep the rest of the treaty, including the relinquishment of all his Italian possessions.

Francis Set His Army in Motion.

The king of France swore that if the treaty was not kept he would return and deliver himself up. "Let him keep his oath," said Charles, adding some other remarks about conduct unbecoming a man of honor, which were reported back to Francis. Francis set his army in motion on August 8, and the war between him and the emperor began again after a truce of fifteen months, to last three years longer. Angered at the charge of bad faith made by Charles, Francis sent a herald to the emperor with a cartel written in his own hand, saying: "You have lied in your throat in saying that we have done anything unworthy of a gentleman of honor. Appoint a time and place of meeting and we will bring our sword for you to cross."

When Charles received this challenge he consulted the grandees of his kingdom. The duke of Infantado gave the opinion that, whatever might be the popular opinion, kings were bound by the laws of honor as other people. However, he did not think the fulfillment of a treaty was a fit subject to be decided by a duel. Charles, nevertheless, sent his herald to Francis, accepting the challenge and appointing a time and place for the meeting. He also gave the herald a long written argument on the treaty of Madrid, and treaties in general, with which he was to preface the acceptance of the challenge.

When the herald began to read, Francis stopped him with: "I will hear nothing but the time and place. Does he accept?"

"Permit me to do my office," said the herald.

"Nay," cried the king; "you shall not speak before giving me the time and place."

"Sire, then give me my safe conduct home," said the herald.

"Let him have it," cried the king—and so there was no duel.

Swinsburne Called War's Poet.

Nelson Collins, writing in Century, puts forward Swinsburne as the poet of the world's war, and to prove his point he quotes liberally from Swinsburne's "Songs Before Sunrise," published in 1871. "It is the greatest single volume of poetry in the last 50 years," Mr. Collins continues. "Swinsburne was writing against King Frederick of Naples and Napoleon III and Francis Joseph, and for Italy in the birth of a new freedom and a betrayed France and a Europe disturbed, if not always demonstrative, throughout its length and breadth, Mazzini and Carducci were akin to him in abstract international mood. The poems are nearly 50 years old; but, then, he was a 'forward looking' man. And, anyway, what's in a date? The best book on the way the great war stamped the men who fought in it, 'The Red Laugh,' was written in 1905."

Never Lose Hope.

Hope is something to be busy with. It is something of which we should accumulate a store. Always have plenty of hopes, and have them so that they will reach out and lead away into the years of the future.

There is really something mysterious about a hope. If you will cherish it faithfully and keep it warm in your heart, you will be almost sure to some time realize it. It is said that we are what we believe ourselves to be. But, perhaps, we might better say that we are what our hopes are.

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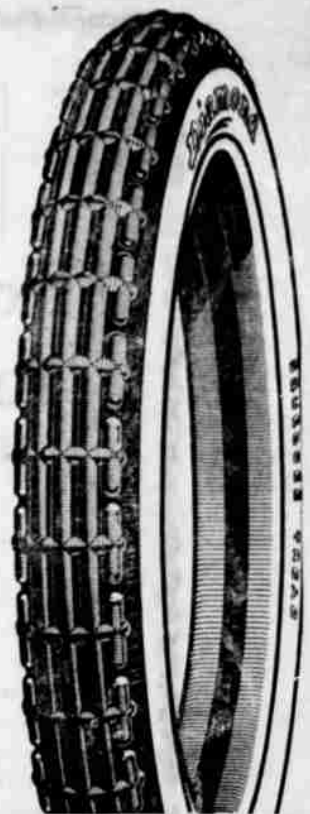


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