

Thesis.

Necessity of Arbitration.

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"War is the organization and exercise of the combative instincts of man common to him and beasts." With the progress of science and civilization its methods have varied, but through all history, it has recorded the desolation of countries and the massacre of prisoners. It has also recorded the perpetration of barbarity and the slavery of women and children of the conquered nation.

It cannot be denied that war extended civilization in ancient times, and that Rome and Greece did much to subdue barbarism and civilize nations. It was necessary that the Persians be subdued from their contempt of the just restraints of law, morality, and decorum to civility.

The Commonwealths of Greece were welded into a more powerful state just as the American War of Independence showed the weakness of confederate states, and u-

nited them into one of the great nations of the world.

In ancient times war was the chief means of bringing nations together.

Navigation was then little better than piracy, but since then it has pacified great nations who were in contention and instead of separating countries it has become their bond of union.

It has been said, "If you wish for peace, you must be prepared for war." This may be true when a nation is surrounded by uncivilized tribes, but it is not true when nations do not desire war, which is often forced upon them by the magnitude of standing armies.

The desire to lessen the horror of war has manifested itself in the recognition of certain international laws, which are actually moral principles although

they are not backed by force, the distinguishing feature of ordinary law.

The United States is deserving of special honor in that it has always contended that an international law should be established for the protection of private property under a hostile flag. Efforts have been made at various times to prevent wars in Europe by combinations of nations, and, though none have been perfected, all past attempts to extend international laws for the purpose of lessening war have been noble.

It is sincerely hoped that the time may come, and very speedily, when brotherhood among nations will be recognized as a principle of international morality, and that the settlement of disputes by violence will be no longer tolerated.

Arbitration has been termed a sound idea, and it is sure to

be realized as it passes from thinkers into the conscience of a people.

As a means of settling international disputes, arbitration is as far above war as the human is above the brute.

Nations agree on rules and regulations of war, and it should be possible, with proper effort, for them to agree on rules and regulations to keep peace.

He who thinks seriously, must certainly admit that international disputes had better end with arbitration, though not always satisfactorily, than to end in blood-shed and demoralization.

Arbitration, far from being an unused or impossible remedy is directly in the line of civic growth. And more than any one movement, it stands for civil law. It is an adequate legal remedy which would cause the heat

of strife to become less in strength and violence.

The assurance of a good understanding among nations ought to have its effect in greatly reducing naval and military expenditures.

Many of the older states of Europe are wasting the resources of their people in maintaining vast military organizations to insure peace by perpetual readiness for war.

While a man serves in the army, he is a direct burden upon society, and must be supported. The immense army of which Germany so proudly boasts is a great burden to that country, to that country, and the provision for it means an arrest in the productiveness of the nation.

The standing armies of France, Russia and Germany are not

only a menace to the peace of Europe, but a great drawback to the prosperity of the peoples.

The people of the United States, not being called upon to support an enormous army, may fail to understand the extent of the evils of the military system of European countries.

Contrast the productive capacity of a single man with the cost of supporting a man in idleness, or, in other words, a soldier in time of peace; multiply this by the vast number of men, who are thus a burden to society by military service, and the value of sacrifice may be largely appreciated. With these heavy burdens to bear, it is no wonder that nations are always in a condition of agitation.

But it is all caused by a constant drain which the sovereign persists in encouraging—

the standing army in time of peace.

That these armies and fleets may be kept in good fighting order, the government must cultivate a condition of military touchiness. The army and navy might be humiliated and lose heart if it showed a readiness to let injuries pass without notice.

Thus the civilized world is drawn away from the extension of commerce, art, science, literature and invention, in order to count the mangled corpses on great battle-fields and rejoice over the number ^{of buildings} destroyed and ships sunk.

With the remarkable progress in invention, the excessive armaments both on land and sea have been so perfected that the slaughter which will result in a war during the latter part of the nineteenth century is beyond

estimate.

A table showing the awful cost of the principle wars from 1790 - 1890 in money and in life will give some idea of the cost connected with the present war.

Chief Wars.	Cost in Millions -	In Lives.
1790-1815 Napoleon Wars.	\$6000	1,900,000.
1828. Rome and Turkey.	100	120,000
1830-40 Spain " Portugal.	250	160,000
1840 Civil Wars in Europe.	50	60,000
1854-56 Eng. France ^{and} Prussia	1500	480,000
(Crimean).		
1859. France ^{and} Austria	220	60,000
1861. United States	3600	500,000
1866. Prussia ^{and} Austria	100	50,000
1870-71 France. Prussia	1530	290,000.
1876-77 Prussia " Turkey	920	1,800,000.

And yet notwithstanding all this loss of life and treasure, this has been an age of peace.

The numerous occasions on

which arbitration or mediation has been directly sought and found effective, may be cited in proof of the feasibility of such a system being adopted by nations without any derogation of their national honor.

There is also intense feeling in favor of the solution of international disputes by such means.

Although there have been failures in the adjustment of international disputes, no less than sixty-seven have been settled by arbitration during the present century, and thirty-three of these have been between the United States and other nations.

The United States has taken the lead in the encouragement of substitution of arbitration for war as a means of settling international questions.

The arbitration conferences have been promoters of high pub-

lic sentiment and show a long stride toward a more perfect civilization.

Great men of this country from Washington and Jefferson to Grant and Sheridan have left records of their horror of war and of their belief in arbitration.

The increased prosperity and multiplied happiness which would follow, if the world's civilization should reach that point where arbitration and not blood should settle disputes, can only be hoped for.

The United States, having no great standing armies, and at the same time vast in its resources and impregnable in its position, is in an excellent position to urge upon the world the replacing of brutality with moral means for the settling of international disputes. She could thus influence the world

to turn its plow-shares and
spears into pruning hooks and
to silence the throbbing of the
war drum; to realize the songs
of the prophets; to cultivate the
spirit of mutual friendship
and to educate the world by
example and illustration.

The increasing cost of arma-
ments and their destructive char-
acter will before long render them
intolerable, and an agreement of
the great powers to arbitrate their
difficulties would be the long-
est stride toward the millennium
that Christianized nations have
ever made.