

ELECTORS OF OTTAWA :

You will soon be called upon to elect your representatives for the House of Commons. The following considerations will, perhaps, tend to convince you that I may happen just now to be the most capable of securing the highest welfare, and the most rapid advancement of our city, and of our country also.

During the present year, the fiftieth anniversary (or the Jubilee) of the glorious reign of Queen Victoria will be celebrated throughout the British Empire. Why shouldn't our Queen (the Sovereign Representative of three hundred millions of human beings, in actual possession of nearly one quarter of the whole habitable world, and by far the greatest Empire ever known) take advantage of so favorable an occasion to invite all the Great Powers of Europe to a grand convention? in the hope that they may find it possible to agree to reduce simultaneously their enormous armies, five or ten per cent. every year, for several years in succession, until the great nations of Europe shall begin to realize that they would be quite as secure with only one hundred thousand soldiers each, as they are at present with half a million, or more.

Should the surplus millions of European soldiers be thus disbanded: hundreds of thousands of the more vigorous and enterprising would doubtless be glad enough to form comfortable homes for themselves in the vast wildernesses of Canada and Australia. This Dominion and Australia might thus grow up rapidly into great nations, and within twenty or thirty years either one of them may become as populous, wealthy and important as the United States of America is at the present day. Why, then, shouldn't Canada, Australia, South Africa and the other British colonies present addresses to Queen Victoria during the coming jubilee? requesting her to take such action as may thus naturally result so beneficially, not for us only, but for the whole world also.

Some such action, as I here advocate, would doubtless soon result in such a diminution of the armies of the world, that the danger of serious warfare would be reduced to a minimum, and the superabundant wealth and energies of "all nations" would be left free to be expended in improving the condition of the whole human family generally, insomuch that there need be no want of the necessities of life anywhere upon earth hereafter, nor want of suitable occupation, nor want of education, such as qualifies people and nations for self government and free institutions; therefore I now lift up the standard of—The Peace of the World, and the Welfare of Canada—and, of course, the welfare also of all other new countries which shall now cordially invite the needless armies of the world to "beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks," that they may help to cultivate "the waste places of the earth," and cause prosperity and abundance, happiness and peace, to prevail everywhere upon earth.

It is well known to many in this city, and elsewhere, that I have already devoted thirty-four years of my life to a constant series of efforts to ultimately secure the peace of the world. With this grand purpose in view, I have travelled, and spoken, written, and published incessantly both sides of the Atlantic; having crossed the ocean ten times, and twice visited Europe, Asia, and Africa; and now at last I see plainly that the time has certainly come, when a little prompt and determined action, wisely directed, must inevitably lead to the much to be desired security