

one of them would fight.' 'When a smith possesses pinchers, he does not amuse himself by grasping the red-hot iron with his fingers,' were the words of another monarch, long ago, when a chivalrous enemy proposed to him the settlement of a quarrel by single combat.

"Men have hardly as yet become philosophers; and if by philosophy we are to understand wisdom, habitual and complete, it is much to be feared that they will never, as a multitude, become worthy of the name. But they are beginning to reflect, and, what is more, they are beginning to possess the power, by means of the suffrage, of carrying out into action the fruits of their reflections; and it is scarcely probable that they will much longer cheerfully resign themselves to play the part of mere pinchers.

"Whilst these lines are being penned, an important election is taking place in a country which has had the privilege of weighing and solving the first of many great problems, and it is upon the very question of peace that one of the candidates, our excellent friend, Mr. Henry Richard, bases an appeal to a large constituency. His name is a symbol and a standard, the standard of *war with war*. An address which he has issued to the electors bears this suggestive title, '*The Cost of War*.' From that document, which we have appended in full to the present work, we merely quote, at present, one paragraph:— 'The total expenditure on account of past and present military and naval operations, of Great Britain, in the year 1868, is exactly *one hundred guineas* per minute, day and night, throughout the year.' One hundred guineas, two thousand five hundred francs, per minute, is the cost of war amongst our neighbours; it is as much, and more, amongst ourselves; and, in proportion, it is as much, or even greater in other nations! What floods of exhausting perspiration, and even blood, must this enormous exaction be wringing from the bruised flesh and palpitating veins of poor mankind! How many hearths without fire, children without clothing, and mouths without food, does it represent!

"Truly, men must be fools, and worse than fools, if, *knowing these things*, they do not rise everywhere, as in a body, against this insatiable devourer, whose very repose is murderous, and which, as has been remarked, consumes as much whilst ruminating as whilst feeding. Men will deserve all the calamities and burdens of war if, when they possess the power of legally and peaceably, but irresistibly, making their will known and respected, they shall hesitate to proclaim it; if, wearied with barren strifes, interminable agitations and purposeless divisions, they do not unite, once for all, in the holy and beneficent *Crusade of Peace*; and if, finally, from every electoral urn, as from every thoughtful head and every feeling heart, there do not issue a voice, as of a thunder-peal, before which every obstacle shall give way. 'The age of cannibalism is past; it is ours not to kill, but to live; and, WAR SHALL BE ABOLISHED!'"

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FROM "BRITISH WAR HISTORY DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY."

By WILLIAM STOKES, Manchester.

But for the huge expenses of that gratuitous display of military skill,