

seeking an outlet for itself from the beginning. In its inevitableness and forward sweep it shows itself at first in the crude and more or less irrational form of war, and in this sense war may be taken as the expression of a fuller life at the unmanageable stage. It is reason in the form of unreason, or life in the form of life's enemy. Thus the advantages so often attributed to war have come, not as the result of war, but in spite of it and as the fulfillment of the end of a whole movement. Instead of saying, then, that a fuller life presupposes war, we say that war presupposes this fuller life and is its crudest and most irrational expression.

War is, of course, necessary under certain circumstances. But this qualification at once suggests that under other circumstances it would be unnecessary. War has therefore no virtue of itself. If it has, our government should bring it on immediately with its beneficent results. Not only indeed has it no virtue of itself, but it need not necessarily be the form which the throes preceding a fuller national manhood are to assume. They may take various other and more rational forms in which less prominence would be given to force and to methods which we have in common with the barbarian. The world is getting more intelligent and to the extent that this is the case, individuals and nations are able to exercise more self-control, and to give reason greater prominence in their settlement of differences. The irrational is being gradually eliminated and men are learning to take movements by the hand and to direct them in the proper channels.

To admit the necessity of war is to admit the failure of both war and peace to better our condition. To call in force and bloodshed that a fuller national life may follow is to plead the incapacity of reason and to appeal to the lower that the higher may be attained. It is not the soldier or the military man, but the man of wisdom, learning, and sound judgment that should be appealed to for the ushering in of the growing time when Canada will be richer in art, in science, and in literature than it is to-day.

Even if war were a necessity it may not be wise to insist on that fact. Such insistence on the part of all might very soon make war an actuality, whereas our efforts should be in the direction of preventing as far as possible any such occurrence. The sober logician recognizes the necessity of evil in a progressive world, but he always qualifies his recognition by giving the other aspect, namely, that evil must of necessity be overcome. To say that a "baptism of blood" must precede the "full and true noble work of life" is to insist on the necessity of evil; to say that we should as far as possible prevent bloodshed is to insist on the necessity of evils being overcome.

If national greatness is determined by great wars, then Britain and France are already great, and have long since been engaged at the full and noble work of life. It should therefore be unnecessary for them to proceed to lay the foundation over again or to do their "first works."

Present conditions in Canada do not seem to point in the direction of war. Quebec and the other provinces may not sufficiently recognize their mutual dependence. But both races are learning to grow together and to recognize the advantages in variety of races and even in the impossibility of attaining to sameness or unanimity in religious beliefs. The friendliness that characterized the opening of our federal parliament a few days ago and the attitude of the most intelligent classes of both races is sufficient guarantee against any such misfortune as war.

Crises are necessary in the lives of nations as well as in the lives of individuals. War is a crisis and to pass through it successfully is a great victory. But there are other crises and other victories, and a greater victory is where war is prevented by controlling the passions and impulses that would otherwise drive us headlong into war. The crisis will come in its own time, but let us have the greater victory!

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Mr. Norman Crothers, who was injured in a hockey practice about a week ago, is still at the general hospital, but is making satisfactory progress toward recovery.