Vol. 1, NO. 5

SATURDAY, OCT. 7, 1905



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## LABOR AND WAR.

There is no sadder thought for the historian than that of the waste made during the last century and a half by needless and fruitless wars. Had there been no Seven Years' War, no War of the French Revolution, no Napoleonic Wars, no Crimean War, no Franco-German War, how much better off would the world be!

Labor has been the great sufferer. But has it been free from blame? Have not the passions of the masses been in fault as well as the ambition of rulers? Take the British wars of which the memory is still pretty fresh. The Crimean War was made by a trio of intriguers, Louis Napoleon, Palmerston and Stratford de Redcliffe. It was opposed by the best friends and champions of the people. It was condemned and not a few were artisans.

Conspicuous in iniquity was the the interest of the opium trade. National morality denounced it and voted down its author, Palmerston, in Parliament. But by the of great powers in which the standmasses, including, I fear, many ing of the weak is not so sure.

toilers, Palmerston was enthusiastically sustained at the polls, Bright was defeated at Manchester and Cobden at Huddersfield. To those men war, whatever the cause, was a cock-fight, in which they wanted their own rooster to win.

Even more iniquitous than the Lorcha War was the attack on the Boer Republic, the independence of which had been solemnly conceded, recognized by Minister after Minister, and affirmed by the highest court of justice; so that the statement of the Canadian Parliament justifying the war on the ground that the Queen was Suzerain was simply a shameless falsehood. The real object of the conspiracy which made the war, as now plainly appears, was the extension, not of British liberty, but of the liberty of the cosmopolitan capitalists at soon as the blood was dry on the Of those, however, who cast their heights of Sebastopol. But of those votes in favor of the war, giving who burned Bright in effigy for the war Government an immense appealing against it, I am afraid majority, many must have been artisans; while the yells of savage triumph which made the Mafeking "Lorcha" War, waged on China in Night hideous, came not from aristocratic or plutocratic throats.

In the Hague Tribunal I feel a limited confidence. It is a conclave

That in which I should feel much more confidence would be a unanimous declaration of Labor in all lands that it would no longer suffer the hard-earned bread to be snatched from its lips in order to furnish ambition with the instruments of destruction, the possession of which on an enormous scale and at a ruinous expense is a standing incentive to war. Let reduction of armaments be the issue wherever the Labor vote has power.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

## TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY

To the Editor of The Tribune:

SIR-There are minds into which. it has been said, it takes a surgical operation to insert jokes. The other day at the Trades and Labor Congress, speaking of the failure of Johannesburg to employ slave judicial arbitration to put an end deplored by everybody almost as instead of free labor in their mines. to strikes, I proposed in jest as an alternative that in divisions on a strike the voting should always be by ballot, and every married man should have two votes. I seem to have been taken literally and I am lectured accordingly. All that I meant, as my hearers must have known, was that I had more confidence in natural wisdom than in formal arbitration.

Yours faithfully, GOLDWIN SMITH