INTRODUCTION

American Advocate of Peace, which in turn became, in 1837, the Advocate of Peace, the monthly journal which is now, as then, the organ of the American Peace Society.

Mr. Ladd was untiring as a lecturer and writer upon his chosen subject, and in 1840 he published the *Essay* on a Congress of Nations, which is his abiding title to fame. In this remarkable essay, which will later be briefly analyzed, he advocated a Congress of Nations and a Court of Nations, each of which was to be separate and distinct, as diplomatic and judicial functions require, as he properly said, "different, not to say opposite, characters in the exercise of their functions." Thus, he said:

I consider the Congress as the legislature, and the Court as the judiciary, in the government of nations, leaving the functions of the executive with public opinion, "the queen of the world." This division I have never seen in any essay or plan for a congress or diet of independent nations, either ancient or modern; and I believe it will obviate all the objections which have been heretofore made to such a plan.*

His many writings prove that Mr. Ladd possessed a facile pen and his style may fairly be judged by his *Essay on a Congress of Nations.* His agitation from the platform shows him to have been a ready speaker, interesting alike to the select audiences of colleges and universities, and to the simpler minded folk, who are, it is believed, a severer and a juster judge.

Hemmenway's Memoir, published in 1872, which is still the chief, indeed the only, account of Mr. Ladd's life, is full of tributes to his ability as a speaker and to his power to instruct, to interest, and to hold an audience. He was licensed to preach in 1837, and in a letter written some two months before his death he thus describes an experience which he and the good people of Geneva, New York, seem to have enjoyed:

I went to Geneva, and preached three times on the Sabbath, as usual to large and attentive audiences. But my strength failed mc in the last scrmon, which was to an overflowing audience, and I was obliged to request the minister to give out a

* Advertisement, post, p. l.

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