

amined the influence of modern armaments as regards possible collisions in the future, and demonstrated the importance, both in the interests of internal and foreign security, of immediately abandoning the aggressive system which has been so fatally prevalent amongst all nations, for a system truly defensive, and exempt alike from its dangers and its expenses.

" 'Who are you?' is the inevitable question of those to whom it is insinuated that their principles are not those of ideal perfection. 'Who are you' who undertake so boldly to arraign the experience of all mankind, and who imagine that you may repudiate that which custom, tradition and necessity have consecrated? 'Where is your title, your precedent, your authority?'

" 'Who are we?' We are the whole body of those who calculate and deliberate, and of those whose names carry weight in the material, moral, religious, scientific, and even military traditions of mankind. We are the witnesses of the past and the precursors of the future. With us is the voice of wisdom and experience, the testimony of all who have lived, thought, felt and suffered, of all who have enlightened mankind, as well as of those who misled them. Divided as to all other matters, but united on this point, listen to that which, from the depths of our tombs, and from the height of our renown, we cry, as with one voice, to the human race. Listen to those of your contemporaries and of your ancestors, more illustrious than yourselves, to deliver to all who are attentive to this solemn charge, which is already beginning to meet its echo in every language and in every region—'War against War!'

"Yes, war against war, whose very conquerors themselves have proved it to be vanity, and whose horrors have been proclaimed by every system of philosophy and religion. *It kills not only the body but the soul*; it devours, enslaves, spoils and degrades.

"Inflamed with perpetual hostility to industry, wealth, and to human life itself, it converts the choicest results of labor to ashes, and changes the finest of mankind into mere beasts of prey.

"War recognizes neither family ties, liberty nor friendship; it commands neighbour to plunder neighbour, and relative to massacre relative, and even compels the lover to set in flames the roof which shelters his betrothed.

"Surrounding governments and nations with the withering grasp of excessive taxation and restriction, it leads them, in turn, from anarchy to despotism, and from despotism to anarchy, and bathes the very soil of once happy regions in blood and tears.

"War, in short, involves in its train every form of calamity, of suffering, and of absurdity; it steals the plough from the field, the mechanic from the workshop, and the child from its mother, and is, in fact (to quote from a passage contained in another part of this volume) *the continuation, on a grand scale, of the abominable crime of Cain.*

"Then, once more, let us proclaim war against war; for its riddance is the first essential of the era of light and liberty for which the world is longing, an era which has only been rendered impossible hitherto by a want of faith in its attainment.

" 'If men were philosophers,' said General Hoche to one of his lieutenants, 'they would not fight.' 'If my soldiers reflected,' had previously exclaimed another warrior, Frederic II., King of Prussia, 'not