

### When the Jingo's Work is Done.

Mr. Geo. T. Angell, editor of *Our Dumb Animals*, who is a strong and bold advocate of peace between America and England, gives this extract from a letter by Dr. Wayland. Some of our jingoes on both sides of the line may profitably remember that the men who were so pleased to hear that peace had been made had had experience of war with England:

"At the close of the last war with Great Britain, I was in the city of New York. It happened that on a Saturday afternoon in February a ship was discovered in the offing, which was supposed to be bringing home our Commissioners at Ghent from their unsuccessful mission. The sun had set gloomily before any intelligence from the vessel reached the city. Expectation became painfully intense as the hours of darkness drew on. At length a boat reached the wharf, announcing that a *Treaty of Peace* had been signed!

"The men who first heard the news rushed into the city, shouting as they ran through the streets, 'Peace! Peace! Peace!'

"From house to house, from street to street, the news spread. The whole city was in commotion. Men bearing lighted torches were rushing to and fro, shouting, 'Peace! Peace! Peace!'

"Few men slept that night. They were assembled in groups in the streets and in the houses, telling each other that *the long agony of war was over*, and that *the distracted nation was about to enter on a career of prosperity.*"

### Death Duties in France and England.

The French Legislature has just passed a new law enacting a sliding scale of succession duties. The Bill is criticised adversely in England, but it is thought that its principle will be adopted in all European continental countries. In our view, it is one of the most reasonable taxes that has ever been devised, and, while taxation of any kind is necessary, it is one that should take a prominent place in every country. It will be looked upon especially as an oppressive measure by the Roman Catholic church, which has always batted on the bequests of its dying children; for it is likely that it will to a large extent put a stop to bequests of this nature. The new law begins with a tax of from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 per cent. on sums inherited by lineal descendants, the former rate being on sums of less than \$2,000, the latter on \$400,000 and over. On the latter sum a husband or wife will pay 6 per cent., a brother 14 per cent., an uncle or nephew 16 per cent., and more distant relatives, strangers and institutions, 20 per cent. The new English Budget has considerably reduced the succession duties, but that is distinctly a piece of class legislation.

### Decrease of Methodist Church Membership in England.

A despatch in the *Toronto Mail* says: "The religious press pathetically comment on the falling off in Methodism. The Wesleyans' returns reveal that during the past year there has been a decrease of 2,275 in the membership. The *Christian World* asks how it is that 2,000 ministers, aided by an army of zealous workers and with over a million scholars in the Sunday schools, failed to add a single member to their church."

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