

Court of Arbitration for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and the abandonment of the terrible arbitrament of war.

In response to the appeal a considerable gathering met at four o'clock in the afternoon of the 17th, under the presidency of Joseph Storrs Fry. Among those present were Sir J. W. Pease, M.P., Thomas Snape, M.P., J. A. Bright, M.P., W. T. Stead, Percy Bunting, editor of *The Contemporary*, Canon Benham, Dr. W. E. Darly, and others.

London Friends were well represented, and a few from the provinces were also present. Letters were read from Sir James Carmichael, M.P., Thomas Burt, M.P., John Wilson, M.P., Albert Spicer, M.P., Archdeacon Sinclair, Dr. Fairbairn (principal of Mansfield College), Newman Hall, Thomas Spurgeon, Dr. Clifford, Mark Guy Pearce, Hon. E. Carr Glyn, Hon. Canon Freemantle, Lady Henry Somerset, and others, expressing regret at their inability to be present. The Archbishop of York wrote that he was heartily at one with the meeting in the desire to promote peace, and for making every wise effort to hinder and discourage the appeal to arms.

The Chairman said the subject affected the spiritual and physical well-being of mankind throughout the whole world, and it was the desire of the Society of Friends to bring the subject before the notice of all those who had influence, and who might be the means of furthering that blessed day of peace to which, with all the discouragements of the present time, they ventured in unflinching faith to look forward. The terrible aggregate evils of standing armies must be patent to all.

Canon Benham moved, J. P. Gledstone seconded, and Sir Joseph Pease and J. A. Bright supported a resolution expressing the belief that the time was ripe for the British Government to propose the holding of a conference of the Powers for the purpose of concerting practical measures designed to

promote the reduction of armaments and the creation of standing Arbitral Tribunals, and urging upon Christian churches the duty of unitedly approaching the Government for this purpose.

An amendment for this resolution was moved by W. T. Stead, seconded by Arthur Hay Storrow, and supported by Percy Bunting. After some discussion it was ultimately carried with unanimity as the substantive resolution. It was to this effect: "This Conference, meeting by invitation of the religious Society of Friends, and composed of the members of the various Christian denominations, being convinced of the urgent need, in the present state of Europe, for definite action being taken towards the international reduction of armaments, believes that the time is ripe for the Government of this country to propose to the other Powers the adoption of practical measures designed to promote that object, and urges upon Christian churches the duty of unitedly approaching the Government for this purpose, and also for the promotion of some system of International Arbitration."

We regret that circumstances only admit of our giving a very brief summary of the proceedings; but we thankfully believe that the effect of the Conference will not be limited by the issue of a resolution however excellent, but that a decided step forward has been taken in securing the moral sympathy of the churches.—*In British Friend*, of 5th mo.

SOME NOTED YOUNG MEN.

Charles James Fox was in Parliament at 19.

The great Cromwell left the University at Cambridge at 18.

John Bright was never at any school a day after he was 15 years old.

Gladstone was in Parliament at 22, and at 24 was Lord of the Treasury.

Lord Bacon graduated at Cambridge at 16 and was called to the bar at 21.