

meant by the principle, "The citizen exists for the State, not the State for the citizen." If the victor be a nation which loves peace, which will seek peace and ensue it, which acknowledges that there are other and higher rights than such as may be given by the will of the stronger, that the moral law is of validity in conduct towards other nations, that the pledged word must be kept, a nation that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh truth in its heart, sweareth to its own hurt and changeth not, then the nation which brought about the peace of Portsmouth, which showed its magnanimity in the Panama Canal, its altruism in the Spanish War, need fear no war—sum of all the villainies—for when war begins, then hell openeth.

In New Orleans the other day I heard a distinguished officer of the American Army urge that children should be taught to fight for their rights, for, said he, "if we do not fight for our rights we soon will have no rights to fight for." I ventured then, as I venture now, to say, God forbid that the time should ever come when those of our breed should need to be taught to fight for their rights. But there never was a time when your people or mine has required to be urged to fight for its rights; we always have been, are now and always will be, all too ready to fight for our rights. That is not the true difficulty or the matter of greatest importance. What is important is to determine what our rights are.

No nation, as no individual, ever existed that can be wholly trusted to determine its own rights; impartiality is excluded in the nature of things; and it is the pugnacious spirit, the spirit which is insistent to fight for rights, which is the greatest danger in our international relations. Any nation that is looking for a fight can always be accommodated. It was the curbing of that desire "to fight for our rights," and the careful determination on principle of what these rights were, which made possible the Century of Peace. There always was, is now and always will be a war party—of strong and patriotic men it is composed, no weaklings or traitors are to be found in it, and yet it is just such a party which