

the belief that war is unnecessary. There are exceptions to everything. And let us consider that an unconverted nation, which maintained the old system of carrying on war, were to threaten the lives and happiness of the converted nation. Why, the horrors of war would be nothing compared with those which would result from unresisted invasion.

Therefore, it is evident that war is the only and the natural way of settling great international difficulties.

Let us now consider the benefits of war for a nation's prosperity. In dealing with this we must not look to the immediate effects, but rather to the lasting good obtained. We will take a few instances of the great wars from history, and see what their effects have been.

Did the great Roman empire become so extensive and prosperous by peaceful discovery? No! decidedly not. It was by many and great wars. What would have become of their nation if Pompey had not defeated the pirates and overcome Mithridates? If Cæsar had not, almost during his whole life, carried on war for its preservation and increase? Why, in a short time, it would have dwindled down, and her people at home and her allies abroad would have suffered oppression and want at the hands of her powerful enemies.

Why do the English-speaking nations to-day enjoy such beneficent forms of government? Are not their liberties founded on that great Magna Charta, obtained from King John by the English clergy and barons? In this great charter the rights and privileges of the people were clearly defined, and they have always clung to it as the warrant and basis of their liberties, and time and time again tyrannical kings have been forced to renew its provisions. Was this great measure obtained by peaceful means? No, it was forced from John at the point of the sword. And we have derived benefits from this civil war for eight centuries.

Let us take the Crusades—these great military expeditions undertaken by the Christian nations of Europe for the purpose of rescuing the holy places of Palestine from the Mohammedans. There is no doubt that a great amount of money was spent, and many lives were lost in those wars. But were the lasting effects not of greater benefit than the immediate results?

The Holy Wars were productive of much and lasting good