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Canada in Mourning.

A list of killed and wounded Canadians drives the sounds of battle nearer home to us. It brings our people face to face with the serious side of war. We can almost hear the crackling of the battalion fire and the death growl of the artillery. It is impossible at such a time to avoid thinking of the mothers of these brave boys. Their dimmed eyes and faded cheeks will lead many to talk of the war with a sigh that the necessity for it almost made shrinking from it a crime. While every Canadian will heartily join in the expressions of sympathy with the bereaved as expressed in the parliament of Canada, the country will best honour the memory of her dead sons by continuing to strive for the success of the righteous cause for which they fought and fell.

"Dying like men, they shall be famed."

The Fascination of War.

Admiration of the brilliant qualities being displayed in the present war may prevent an impression of the crimes and miseries of this savage custom. We know that men seldom delight in war, considered merely as a source of misery. Yet when they hear of battles, the picture which rises to their view is not what it should be, a picture of extreme wretchedness, of the wounded, the mangled, the slain. These horrors are hidden under the splendour of those mighty energies which leak forth amidst the perils of conflict, and which human nature contemplates with an intense and heart-thrilling delight. Perhaps, when the present conflict is over, and our daily thoughts return to the pursuits of industry, the sounds of "weeping by the hearth" in many Canadian homes, will subdue the martial fever, and lead the press and pulpit to warn people against yielding to the fascinations of war.

But, at present, in all parts of the British Empire, the field of battle is being regarded as the field of glory, and so marked is the military spirit of the people that all the nations upon earth may well regard the recent Peace Conference at The Hague as a dream.

A Great Evil.

The English-speaking world has ceased for the moment to regard war as a great evil. Men chat about it, speculate upon it, pass the dull season excitedly perusing the messages from the battle field, forgetting too much what is meant by the sickening lists of killed and wounded. Thus we find the editor of a Southern paper in the United States actually complaining because the promise by President Kruger that the results of any British invasion of the Transvaal would "stagger humanity" seems unlikely to be fulfilled. One would like to forget the horrors of the American civil war. Yet this fire-eating editor objects to newspapers prefixing the word "bloody" to the present strife in South Africa, and says with apparent pride: "The losses incurred by the Boers and the British in South Africa up to the present time are ridiculously small compared to the appalling number of men who were killed or died of wounds or disease in the American civil war, a conflict that did truly "stagger humanity," because in all history there is no war comparable to it in bloody results."

Members of the comparatively recent Peace Conference will not be disposed to quarrel with this Southern gentleman for the honour of having waged what he describes as "the greatest war in history." He supports this contention with sorrowful figures. They show that of the Federal soldiers engaged in the war there died on the field of battle or from fatal wounds 110,007; from disease 199,720, and from other causes 49,708—a grand aggregate of 359,528. Estimating those who went home and died, of whom no account was taken, it is believed that the total death list on the Union side reached 400,000.

Bloody results, in all truth. Yet, although the losses in the present war, when compared with those of the gigantic struggle of 1861-5 may seem "trifling" and "ridiculously small," they ought to prove sufficient to "stagger humanity," and to sadden the most hopeful believer in modern Christianity.