

They followed still his crooked way
And lost one hundred years a day—
For such reverence is lent
To well-established precedent.

“A moral lesson this might teach,
Were I ordained and called to preach:
For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done.

“They follow in the beaten track,
And in and out, and forth and back,
And still their devious course pursue,
To keep the path that others do,
But how the wise old wood gods laugh
Who saw the first primeval calf!
Many things this tale might teach,
But I am not ordained to preach.”

So it is—and the way of man with his fellow-man is alike conservative. And it may cost as much effort to turn men away from the old methods of international dealing as from the old ways of communication from place to place.

But of this be well assured. The city may continue to have her crooked streets, because they were crooked when her world was young; but the old manner of dealing of man with man must inevitably come to an end. For “Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts—show mercy and compassion every man to his brother.”

The splendid services to the cause of peace rendered by the late President of this nation are followed by the still more splendid services of Mr. Taft, enthusiastically supported as he is by statesmen of both sides of politics—and the people of the United States may well be proud that the first practical steps towards international peace throughout the world are made within and by their nation.

The Prince of Peace cometh—perhaps not to-day or to-morrow, but He must needs come—and “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”