

take an interest, strong, enduring, intelligent in the fortunes of the world to which we are allied, whether we will or not, and the influences of which will reach upon ourselves however much we try to avoid them.

One thought more along this line. As one looks upon the European situation to-day, one is lead at times to be almost pessimistic as to the outcome of the future. The more we study the peculiar consequences which have followed the great, exhausting war, the more we sense the weaknesses of the peoples that have been set up in independent and new nationalities, the more we must come to the conclusion that the strength and guidance and maturer experience of the older and larger powers of the world must be brought into play in order that these peoples may be strengthened and protected in the early phases of their national existence. Unless that is done complete anarchy may follow and what that would spell for the world requires no great thought to conceive. In Europe you have old and strong powers; there you have these new nationalities just set up, not now strong, but which may become strong if protected and aided. There you have the smaller powers which have to be safeguarded against the machinations of stronger neighbors and the menace of combinations, and you have the backward peoples of the world which need to be nursed and fathered by the influence of the more forward nations into self-dependent communities.

There seems to me to be only two ways open. The world has either to settle its difficulties in the future as it has settled them in the past, by the sword, and the past gives us a sorry retrospect as to the consequences of settling national disputes by might and by force. If the war of the past five years was a war which so exceeded in destruction,—ruthless destruction in the magnitude of mechanical and other means of destruction, the wars of fifty years ago,—who can measure even in