

unanimous adoption of such a Code, would be an effectual means of promoting universal peace.

4th.—That this Congress respectfully calls the attention of civilized Governments to the necessity of a general and simultaneous disarmament, as a means whereby they may greatly diminish the financial burthens which press upon them; remove a fertile cause of irritation and inquietude; inspire mutual confidence; and promote the interchange of good offices, which, while they advance the interests of each state in particular, contribute largely to the lasting prosperity of nations.

These substitutes for war adopted by the Congress, require no arguments to enforce them, for it is evident that if they be adopted and applied, that terrible scourge of humanity will cease to afflict and degrade the nations.

Few, if any, of the wars, which, for centuries past, have desolated the earth, can be justified on the ground of equity, utility, or necessity; nor can any one of them be cited whose fearful results are not loudly condemned by the voice of Humanity and Religion. The war-spirit of past generations has loaded most, if not all civilized nations, with enormous debts, paralyzed their industry, interrupted their commerce, retarded the progress of science, literature, and art, and created a spirit of jealousy and animosity among the nations which long years of peace have not been able completely to subdue.

Europe, at this moment, presents the melancholy spectacle of an "armed peace." Her mighty legions are ready to take the field; and it is feared, under these melancholy circumstances, a single spark from the torch of war may wrap the world in flames: may God avert so terrible a catastrophe!

The great questions of Peace and War are confided to the hands of those to whom the government of the nations has been entrusted. Their responsibility is as great as their power; and while the Congress would earnestly pray that "The God of Peace" may deign to preside over their councils, it would implore them, in the name of the dearest interests of humanity, civilization, and religion, promptly to adopt the most effective measures for preventing a return of the horrors of war, and for securing to all nations the blessings of a solid and lasting peace.

The substitution of arbitration would be an immense step towards this object; the principle, and the means for giving it effect, might be embodied in special treaties, but the progress of sound political opinions leads still farther. The convening of a Congress, composed of the enlightened and eminent men of all countries, for the purpose of framing an international code, which shall place the relations between the different nations on a solid and intelligible basis; and the institution of a High Court of Nations, for the final adjudication of questions in accordance with the great and comprehensive principles of such a code, would not only remove the causes of war, but cement a noble and holy alliance between both governments and people.

In anticipation of so great a result, it is desirable that the necessity of a general and simultaneous disarmament should take place, as such