

only be trusted to the most intelligent engineers, the ablest commanders and the bravest and most devoted crew the country can furnish. They assemble the best mental, physical and material endowment a nation possesses, and then, on occasion and at the call of some man or men, whether inspired by duty or instigated by motives of ambition, political power, greed of trade or mere enmity, use these wonderful instruments of material power to destroy the like works of human genius built by some other nation and manned by equally capable and equally devoted men—men on both sides who but a while before may have exchanged friendly salutes or sat at the same table singing the same song of home and loved ones. And yet, such is the intimacy of the trade and social connections between the more civilized modern nations that the successful bombardment and blockade of a seaport might inflict as much damage on the trade of the blockading nation as upon the blockaded, throwing as many hands out of work and causing as much suffering among the people owning the victorious fleet as among the enemy. Moreover, the financial loss might be even greater on the side of the victor, owing to the extent and ramifications of its foreign investments.

These are changes that have come about within the last four decades unrealized by most men, and they open a new chapter in the history of the great nations. Of a certainty, they tend to diminish the factor of physical force in international politics and some students think they will soon close the last chapter in the long history of wars of conquest.

We need not go far into economic history to understand that profound changes have in recent years taken place in the methods of providing for our wants. Men not yet in the middle age can remember when the older provinces of Canada were dotted with "custom" woolen mills, whose owners took wool from the farmer to spin and weave, returning it as finished cloth to