

United States has said, we must be prepared to take certain risks and to make some sacrifice of national pride. When an agreement of that kind, so sweeping as it is, is proposed to us, we shall be delighted to have such a proposal. But I should feel that it was something so momentous and so far-reaching in its possible consequence that it would require, not only the signature of both governments, but the deliberate and decided sanction of Parliament, and that, I believe, would be obtained.

It is interesting to note that Sir Edward Grey proposed a departure from the usual constitutional practice in his statement that he would submit a new treaty to Parliament. In so doing, he has invested the treaty now under negotiation with an importance which gives it a different status from that of the ordinary international compact. He rightfully feels that such treaties are compacts between peoples, and as such should have the popular sanction, for, when all is said and done, the burden of expenditure and the toil of blood caused by war must, in the last resort, be levied on the masses of the people. If the hope expressed by Sir Edward Grey ever finds its fulfillment, we shall indeed feel we are at the summit of the hill and may even look down upon the possibilities of fratricidal strife as only a nightmare of the dreadful past; but though we may fairly hope that we are now on the eve of a treaty which will open a new epoch in the history of mankind, this position of high expectancy has been reached only by gradual steps and not a few setbacks.

And let me say that while I was considering what I should say to you tonight, my mind reverted to a treatise on war which I read many years ago, by an eminent French philosopher, in which he says that war cannot be banished from the world; that from the days that Cain slew Abel down to the present time, at all epochs of the world's history there have been at different places on the surface of the earth pools of blood, which, as he put it so beautifully in French, and as I am sure you will understand it, I venture to quote it in all the beauty of the original:

Depuis le commencement du monde, la terre à différents endroits a été couverte de taches de sang que ne peuvent dessécher ni les vents avec leur brûlante haleine, ni le soleil avec tous ses feux,

that is, neither the sun with all its ardor, nor the wind with its burning breath, have ever been able to dry up.

Let us concede that war cannot be banished from the face of the earth; but surely, if war can not disappear, the crime of fratricide will disappear.