

War Notes.

We are glad to record what may be said to be the true sentiment of the best people of the United States, speaking of them as a whole, as to this present war. It is set forth in the letter of Colonel Roosevelt to Professor Dutton, of Columbia University, Secretary of the American Committee of the Armenian and Syrian Relief, in answer to a request for the ex-President to speak at a meeting in behalf of that object. The letter is partly as follows:—

"If this people, through its Government, had not shirked its duty for five years and this people in connection with the world for the last 16 months, we would now be able to take effective action on behalf of Armenia. Mass meetings on behalf of the Armenians amount to nothing whatever if they are mere methods of getting a sentimental but ineffective and safe outlet to the feelings of those engaged in them. Indeed, they amount to less than nothing. The habit of giving expression to feelings without following the expression by action is, in the end, thoroughly detrimental both to the will power and to the morality of the people concerned.

"As long as this Government proceeds, whether as regards Mexico or as regards Germany, whether as regards the European war or as regards Belgium, on the principles of the peace-at-any-price-man, or the professional pacifist, just so long it will be absolutely ineffective for international righteousness as China itself. The men who act on the motto of 'safety first' are acting up to a motto which could be appropriately used by the men on a sinking steamer who jumped into the boats ahead of the women and children, and who, at least, do not commemorate this fact by wearing buttons with 'safety first' on them as a device. Until we put honour and duty first, and are willing to risk something, in order to achieve righteousness, both for ourselves and for others, we shall accomplish nothing; and we shall earn and deserve the contempt of the strong nations of mankind.

"The American pacifists, the American men and women of the peace-at-any-price type, who join in meetings to 'denounce war,' or with empty words 'protest' on behalf of the Armenians or other tortured and ruined peoples, carry precisely the weight that an equal number of Chinese pacifists would carry at a similar meeting."