

**A WORLD
PACIFICA-
TOR**

As we go to press, reports come to hand of President Wilson's address to the Senate at Washington. It is obviously inspired by the highest and purest motives, but candour compels us to say that it reads, on the whole, as though Mr. Wilson had deliberately set out to justify the phrase recently applied to him,—“ultra-idealistic international pamphleteer.” And here again we seem to be able to connect the President's performance with appeals from peace-at-any-price people. Early in January, the *New York American* published the following from its representative in Berlin:—“A fateful hour in human history has arrived, demanding the utterance of the compelling word from some inspired lips. In other crises great men have been raised up to meet the exigent demands of the hour. Will this historic hour pass without being seized upon by some mortal whom history waits to crown with imperishable laurels? This mortal to whom the finger of history points is the man who happens at the moment to be President of the United States.”

Mr. Wilson steps forward to respond to this appeal. Till now nothing has been able to move him; his neutrality—while that of many of his fellow-citizens has reached the boiling-point—is more ice-cold than ever. Just at the moment when the Allies are bracing themselves for the final round, he tells them that the peace which shall end the present war must be a “peace without victory.” This will be bad news for Belgium, and for all who have believed hitherto that German militarism, as incarnate in the Kaiser and his advisers, is in the direct line that began with Xerxes and was thought to have ended with Napoleon. It is as though Mr. Wilson said to the Allies, “If you insist on a ‘knock-out,’ the United States cannot be expected to guarantee and uphold the sort of peace that will result.” There will be too much of a “sting” about it, Mr. Wilson fears, and the international concert of the future will thereby be endangered. But here Mr. Bryan comes in, objecting on principle to any “concert of power” that would imply any commitment whatever for