

colony of Java, and the savagery of the Belgians on the Congo is, an American writer in *The Outlook* affirms, "one of death-dealing cruelty and wholesale burning of villages." In one raid two hundred native villages were burned. Kitchener, it is true, burned Boer farms which, under protection of the white flag, were made an ambush for sniping at the British, and for concealing combatants and weapons, but he never swept the scythe of destruction over such vast areas as did Sherman in his raid through Georgia.

"GIVE PEACE IN OUR TIME, O LORD."

Every humane instinct recoils from the suffering endured alike by Britain and Boer, but single battles in the Franco-Prussian and American Civil Wars slew many more men than the whole South African campaign.

We seek not to minify this suffering, but to point out the injustice of the accusations of the bloodthirstiness of the British. War is at best a cruel thing, the last and most dreadful appeal. All the more wicked is its wanton precipitation. But never was war waged with greater clemency to the conquered than in South Africa. The British long for peace, and are eager to bestow upon the Boers ampler liberty than they ever had before—save only in the right to oppress alike blacks and Outlanders. For such a peace great numbers of the Boers equally long, and such a peace they all may have as soon as the irreconcilables lay down their arms—not before.

We share the feeling expressed by Canon Holland: We may cherish the memory of that scene which Mr. Paul Bull has recorded in *The Chronicle*, when Boers and British stood together, in the clear morning light, round the graves of two English lads slain in fight, and sang the English hymn that was familiar to both—

"Abide with me: fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me
abide."

May we not hope that the two peoples may yet stand round the open grave of the war, into which they will have cast for burial all the bitter thoughts of hatred and of strife; and may join hands, and hearts, and voices, in prayer to God to pardon all that has driven them so fatally asunder?

A GREAT EXPLORER.

Mr. Peary's sledge journey during his last expedition, says *Current Opinion*, resulted in another most conspicuous addition to our knowledge of arctic geography. Greenland is the largest island in the world. With the neighbouring islands that geographically pertain to it, this Greenland land mass comprises probably nearly half of the total area of all the arctic islands. The coasts of Greenland, extending for some thousands of miles, have now been outlined, except the comparatively short stretch between Independence Bay, discovered by Peary nine years



LIEUT. R. E. PEARY.

ago, and Cape Bismarck, on the east coast. In addition to his coast work, he has travelled 2,400 miles on the inland ice cap. Two explorers have attained a higher latitude in the landless eastern part of the Arctic Ocean; but whether or not Peary succeeds next year in equalling or surpassing the approach to the pole made in the eastern hemisphere, he will always be known as the pioneer who has made far larger additions to our knowledge of the extreme northern lands and of the most northern inhabitants of the world than any other explorer.

LI HUNG CHANG.

With the death of Li Hung Chang has passed away the most notable man in the Celestial Empire. He has been described as the greatest statesman China has ever produced.