

power, braggart boasting of "mailed fist" and "shining armor," rattling of sabre in sheath—not these, but it is "righteousness" that "exalteth a nation." Sir, that is the kind of peace under which you and we have lived for over a hundred years.

SMELLS OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

There are but two principles of international conduct, but two principles that are worth while. One of these is, "Might makes right. Might is right. I can; therefore, I ought; and accordingly, I will." Easily understood; simple as A, B, C; but it smells of the bottomless pit. It is the principle of primeval man, who vindicated his rights by his own strong right arm; who followed the simple plan that "They should keep who had the power; and they should take, who can." It is impossible for a nation to live with such the governing rule; and accordingly courts of justice or of arbitration were introduced to introduce checks upon its operation, in order that there shall be no destruction by one member of the family, the sept, the clan, the nation of the other. As between nation and nation there is a dim simulacrum of this in our international law, but after all it is but dim. There is another rule, "Right is right; and because right is right, to follow right were wisdom in the scorn of consequence." There are three ways in which a course of conduct may be right: It may be right because it is in accord with that moral law planted in every man's soul, that moral law which we Christians believe came from the throne of God Himself; or ethically indifferent a course of conduct may be right because it is in accordance with some law laid down by competent authority, or ethically and legally indifferent, it may be right because it is in accord with a bargain or contract which has been entered into; and that nation, man, however strong—brutally strong, however pious—overwhelmingly, ostentatiously pious, however learned—wearisomely learned, that nation which violates right, whether it be a moral right, a legal right or a right of contract is a criminal before the face of God Almighty, or—there is no God. Where nations agree to look upon that which is right as right, and to follow right, there are no difficulties. If there is dispute it can be determined by principles of right or wrong. Simple plain justice, and simple plain honesty are sufficient to reconcile all the disputes in this world, if men and women and nations are content to allow them to be so composed.