

the great council of the nations will fall mainly upon the leading Military Members, and with the power to enforce the decrees will go the power to shape them. For it is only too well known that in the international council chambers the weight of a councillor's argument is in proportion to the armed force he represents.

The same condition will then be set up under which the Holy Alliance perished unregretted. As that concert of the nations, from which so much had been hoped, degenerated into an instrument of obscurant autocracy, so should we in our turn be in danger of handing over the future of the world to the arbitrament of a tribunal fundamentally opposed to all the democratic ideals for which this war has been fought.

Doubtless the President is well aware of the danger that lurks behind his great appeal. But how many of those to whom it was made have his clearness of vision? "The paths of the sea," he said, in his moving speech to the Senate, "must alike in law and in fact be free. The Freedom of the Seas is the *sine quid non* of peace, equality and co-operation." That is true enough in the right sense. But it must be remembered that there are those for whom Freedom of the Seas means little else than Anarchy, and that what the Anarchists of the Sea would persuade the world is the fair high road, even the only road to the President's goal, leads direct to inequality and away from true co-operation. Yet, if we consider the machinery by which the end is to be obtained, this is certainly true. In that it would so seriously affect the executive ability of the Naval Powers, it would destroy equality and cripple co-operation. How, then, should we preserve peace? Let no one believe that the President, in fixing his gaze with too much intensity on what his Council might achieve, has overlooked the effect which the first act of the Council would have upon its virility. He is not a man to ask that it shall inaugurate its work by breaking up half the machinery by which alone that work can be made good. If this were what he meant, how could those who have perfected that machinery, whose existence depends on it,