

## INTRODUCTION

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ested. He died at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on April 7th, 1841.

In his early years, indeed until 1819, Mr. Ladd is not known to have taken any interest in peace as such, and his connection with the movement was as accidental to him as it was fortunate to the cause of peace. His own account is as follows:

I had the privilege of witnessing some of the last hours of the Rev. Jesse Appleton, D.D., President of Bowdoin College. In his joyful anticipations of the growing improvement of the world, and the enumeration of the benevolent societies of the day, he gave a prominent place to *Peace Societies*; and this was almost the first time I ever heard of them. The idea then passed over my mind as the day-dream of benevolence; and so every one views the subject, who does not examine it. It is probable that the impressions made at this interview first turned my attention to the subject, but it probably would soon have escaped from me, had not the *Solemn Review*\*, which came soon after into my possession, in a very singular way, riveted my attention in such a manner as to make it the principal object of my life to promote the cause of Peace on earth and goodwill to man.†

Leaving out of consideration isolated expressions in favor of peace, to be found in the writings of Dr. Franklin, in the letters and state papers of Washington as private citizen and as President, and the negotiation of the Jay Treaty of 1794, which called attention to arbitration and introduced it again into the practice of nations, it may be said that the first attempt to bring the friends of peace together and to combine their efforts in a movement to advance the cause of peace dates from 1809, in which year Mr. David Low Dodge, a high-minded and successful merchant of New York City, published a tract entitled *The Mediator's Kingdom not of this World: but Spiritual*, in which, to quote his own words, he bore "public testimony against the anti-Christian custom of war." Mr. Dodge reports, in his interesting autobiography, that during the ensuing year "more than twenty leading members of evangelical churches

\* *A Solemn Review of the Custom of War*, a pamphlet by the Rev. Noah Worcester, D.D., published by the American Peace Society in 1814.

† Hemmenway, op. cit., p. 38.