

use of any fit occasion to enter into negotiations with other governments, to the end that any difference or dispute, which could not be adjusted by diplomatic agency, might be referred to arbitration and peacefully adjusted by such means.

The British House of Commons, in 1893, responded by passing, unanimously, a resolution expressive of the satisfaction it felt with the action of Congress, and of the hope that the government of the Queen would lend its ready co-operation to give effect to it. President Cleveland officially communicated this last resolution to Congress, and expressed his gratification that the sentiments of two great and kindred nations were thus authoritatively manifested in favor of the national and peaceable settlement of international quarrels by recourse to honorable arbitration. The parliaments of Denmark, Norway and Switzerland, and the French Chamber of Deputies have followed suit.

It seemed eminently desirable that there should be some agency, by which members of the great representative and legislative bodies of the world, interested in this far-reaching question, should meet on a common ground and discuss the basis for common action.

With this object there has recently been founded "The Permanent Parliamentary Committee in favor of Arbitration and Peace," or, as it is sometimes called, "The Inter-Parliamentary Union." This union has a permanent organization—its office is at Berne. Its members are not vain idealists. They are men of the world. They do not claim to be regenerators of mankind, nor do they promise the mellenium, but they are doing honest and useful work in making straighter and less difficult, the path of intelligent progress. Their first formal meeting was held in Paris, in 1889, under the presidency of the late M. Jules Simon; their second, in 1890, in London, under the presidency of Lord Herschel, ex-Lord Chancellor of Great Britain; their third in 1891, at Rome, under the presidency of Signor Bianchieri; their fourth in 1892, at Berne, under the presidency of M. Droz; their fifth in 1894, at the Hague, under the presidency of M. Rohnsen; their sixth in 1895, at Brussels, under the presidency of M. Deschamps, and their seventh will, it is arranged, be held this year at Buda-Pesth. Speaking in this place, I need only refer, in passing, to the remarkable Pan-American Congress held in your States in 1890, at the instance of the late Mr. Blaine, directed to the same peaceful object.

It is obvious, therefore, that the sentiment for peace and in favor of arbitration as the alternative for war, is growing apace. How has that sentiment told on the direct action of nations? How far have they shaped their policy according to its methods? The answers to these questions are also hopeful and encouraging.

Experience has shown that over a large area, international differences may honorably, practically and usefully be dealt with by peaceful arbitrament. There have been since 1815 some sixty instances of effective international arbitration. To thirty-two of these the United States have been a party and Great Britain to some twenty of them.