

THE
WITNESS OF TRUTH.

Vol. IV.

OSHAWA, JULY, 1849.

No. 7.

ADDRESS OF THE PEACE CONGRESS
TO THE GOVERNMENTS
OF EUROPE AND AMERICA.

In the month of September last, a Congress was held in the city of Brussels, whose great object was to promote and secure permanent peace among the civilized nations of the earth, by finding, if possible, an efficient substitute for the bloody, uncertain, and costly arbitrament of war. The Congress was composed of numerous individuals, speaking various languages, living under diverse forms of Government, and entertaining different political opinions and religious convictions, but drawn together by a common sentiment of humanity, and an ardent desire to promote the welfare of mankind, by removing the causes and incentives to war.

The eminent position which you occupy in the councils of the nations of Europe and America, induces the Congress, of which we are the representatives, to submit to your serious consideration, the great and important questions which formed the subject of their anxious deliberations; and respectfully, yet earnestly to invite your attention to the conclusions at which they arrived. They will be found embodied in the following resolutions:

1st.—That, in the judgment of this Congress, an appeal to arms for the purpose of deciding disputes among nations, is a custom condemned alike by religion, reason, justice, humanity, and the best interests of the people; and that therefore, it considers it to be the duty of the civilized world to adopt measures calculated to effect its entire abolition.

2nd.—That it is of the highest importance to urge on the several Governments of Europe and America, the necessity of introducing a clause into all international treaties, providing for the settlement of all disputes by arbitration, in an amicable manner, and according to the rules of justice and equity—special arbitrators, or a supreme international Court, to be invested with power to decide in cases of necessity, as a last resort.

3rd.—That the speedy convocation of a Congress of nations, composed of duly appointed representatives, for the purpose of framing a well-digested and authoritative international Code, is of the greatest importance, inasmuch as the organization of such a body and the