

In the first place it does not seem to be necessary to go so far as to adopt that collection of views and methods which goes under the name of internationalism. Our own experience has shown us that it is impossible to build up the national feeling which regards war as something abnormal and terrible, as an entirely wrong way of settling disputes. It is not national opposition to war which we need, but a national attitude which disregards war. One could elaborate a good deal on this theme. We cannot, as even the writers of the essay admit, abolish war; why then devote to efforts for the abolition of war energy which might be better expended in education of our people into such an attitude as will insure a clear national conscience.

The people who have such a point of view will make very sure that they so control their external relations that they will not get committed to a course of action the ultimate end of which must be hostilities. This is what is really important. There is not much use talking of examination of foreign office dossiers by parliamentary committees; the educated men of a nation are perfectly capable of following the course of foreign events if they wish to do so. The days of secret treaties and agreements, whatever advance we may have failed to make, are certainly gone. It is rather in some such campaign as this than in any general opposition to war itself that we must look for a ground upon which all can stand.

What then will be the attitude of the Christian Church? It must of course take into account the fact that a large part of the world is not Christian and that the Christian Church is a purely imaginary organization. One might suggest that the first thing for the Church to do is not to preach against war but to preach the doctrine of brotherly love. It is a peculiar thing that three creeds each regarded as orthodox say nothing of the doctrine that God is Love. It is a peculiar thing that one of the articles of religion of one of our greatest ecclesiastical organizations tells us that it is a most wholesome doctrine that we are justified by faith only.