

## WAR AGAINST WAR.

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The Peace Society was formed in the year 1816. Its object is to counteract the spirit, and to abolish (if possible) the practice of war.

"The following able paper, by M. FREDERIC PASSY, the Secretary of the Paris League of Peace, forms the introduction to an interesting collection of extracts from the speeches and writings of many eminent men, in favour of Peace. Its vigour and impressiveness will make it acceptable to many in this country, and we have therefore translated it for the pages of the *Herald*."

"These words, inscribed as the title of a popular work ('Guerre à la Guerre,' by M. A. Larrien), are a speech in themselves; they constitute a sure indication of a new condition of public feeling and thought.

"It would formerly have been deemed little short of madness to enter upon a public opposition to war; now it would be considered still greater folly to undertake its advocacy. Formerly, even amongst the most civilized people, war was regarded as the foremost, the noblest, and the most natural employment of human energy; but now, wherever there is any pretension to a condition superior to barbarism, it is only sanctioned as a sad necessity, which must occasionally be submitted to, but of which no one cares to assume the responsibility. Formerly, in short, war was deified, now it is anathematised. A great conqueror used to be called a hero; the days are coming when he will be branded as a curse.

"Many and various are the causes which have contributed to this great change.

"Formerly it was not customary to estimate costs and expense. 'War,' it used to be said, 'is not a business;' but now men have begun to take account. They have cast up their bill of 'glory,' and have discovered that it was a bill of insolvency.

"Inquiries are now raised respecting the real advantages, even under the most favorable circumstances, of what is conventionally termed a *successful* war. Attention is being awakened to the certain, necessary, and absolutely inevitable costliness of all war whatsoever, whether successful or unsuccessful. We are giving some thought to the number of men killed, the diminution of population, the obstacles to industry, the losses of property and the destruction of harvests, plantations, and public buildings involved by war. We are, at length, pondering over the statistics of the taxes and financial burdens borne by past generations in order to carry on contests which were so destructive to themselves; and to those past taxes we have to add the heavy imposts which the present and long future generations must continue to endure for the discharge of the inexhaustible demands of those debts of blood. And the result of all our investigations and calculations demonstrates that, of all the sources of misery and suffering