

excited; everybody wondered if it was a proclamation announcing some great calamity, perhaps a declaration of war. Everybody bought a copy of the broadside. I bought one, glanced over it and in a moment realized that it was a copy of the rescript of . . . the Czar of Russia inviting the nations to assemble in an international council in order to arrest the progress of the armament of nations. In five minutes after the sense of that document had been comprehended by those who read it . . . everybody was smiling,—and it was a smile of indifference. I did not see one countenance expressing any serious appreciation of the purpose of the rescript . . . It seemed to mean nothing."

Of a surety the Chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, did not exaggerate when he said the other day: "We never concealed our doubts that peace could be guaranteed permanently by international organizations, such as arbitration Courts."

That picture of what took place on the Cathedral terrace impressed me strongly, it haunted me; I felt that sense of having heard it all before which ever now and then we all feel and cannot account for. At length it flashed upon me that I *had* heard it before, that the same thing happened on Calvary nigh nineteen centuries ago, when they that passed by wagged their heads and jeered: "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the Cross."

Not only in Cologne, but also in Paris and in London, yes, in Ottawa, it is possible in Washington, too, there were those who ridiculed the thought that anything good could come of any movement looking to the prevention of war by international agreements or other peaceful means.