

INTRODUCTION

Christendom ever since his day, without amendment, addition, or subtraction. The writer of these introductory notes, who was one of Mr. Ladd's disciples and successors, felt it his duty to present the proposition, pure and simple as his master developed it, at the great Peace Congresses at Brussels, Paris, Frankfort, and London; and to-day it stands before the world, the scheme of William Ladd.*

If this language was true, as it undoubtedly was, thirty years after Mr. Ladd's death, it is equally true at the present day, some forty-four years after Mr. Burritt's tribute, and seventy-four years after the death of William Ladd, when the Congress which he proposed, to agree upon the principles of international law, had been called in 1898 by a "respectable state," to use the words of the *Essay*, and when the Court of Nations which he advocated was approved, in 1907, in the second Conference of the Nations, likewise called by the same respectable state, and when the Court itself can be said to be in the process of formation.

The career of a man whose services have been so highly rated, but not over-rated, by Mr. Burritt, and whose project is being carried out slowly and piecemeal by the Hague Conference, whose possibility he foresaw and whose labors he outlined, deserves to be recorded and to be placed before persons interested in international organization. And yet, like those whose lives are merged in their ideals, there is but little to relate. Mr. Ladd was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, on the 10th day of May, 1778. He fitted for college at the academy of his native town; he entered Harvard College in 1793; and he graduated with the class of 1797. He followed the sea for a number of years, to which he returned after a philanthropic but not altogether successful experience in Florida, but left it permanently upon the outbreak of the War of 1812 with Great Britain. In 1812 he settled at Minot in the State of Maine upon a farm which had belonged to his father. The successful management of his modest inheritance, to which he added from time to time, made him independent, indeed wealthy, and he was therefore able to devote the leisure of the winter season, and to give very considerable sums of money, to causes of a philanthropic nature in which he was inter-

* John Hemmenway, *Memoir of William Ladd*, 1872, introductory notes, pp. 14-5.