

ON December 24th, 1914, it was one hundred years since the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, the treaty which brought to a close the war of 1812 between the United States of America and the British Empire. Dating from 1910, when an influential committee was formed in New York for the purpose of arranging an appropriate celebration of the close of the First Century of Peace, a large amount of work has been done in Canada, Great Britain and the United States. In all three countries are organizations of prominent representative men. It has been recognized everywhere that the celebration of a Hundred Years of Peace between two nations is an event unique in international history.

In June, 1812, the United States, smarting under what she regarded as the overbearing attitude of Great Britain, declared war, and promptly invaded Canada. The magnificent and noble defence offered by the British and Canadian Regulars and Militia is emblazoned in letters of gold upon the Britannic records, and the descendants of those who fought and who saved the fair lands of Canada from conquest by another power are not wanting in their tributes of respect to the memory of their heroic progenitors.

To-day the scene has changed. Those who were at war are now living side by side in amity. No fortresses guard their frontiers, and such rivalry as exists is only in the prosecution of the arts of peace.

The Organizers of the Peace Centenary movement would have failed to do their duty if they had not arranged for a prominent place to be taken by the Churches. It is a matter for devout thankfulness to Almighty God that, notwithstanding boundary disputes and outbursts of national passion, it has been possible for us to keep the peace for the past century, and that differences have been settled by appeal not to the arbitrament of the sword, but to common sense and reason. It is hoped that on the Sunday selected the Churches of Canada and the United States will join in this celebration, and that a mighty anthem of praise, full-souled and sincere, will ascend to High Heaven.

The fact that Canada, as a component part of the British Empire, is at war makes the holding of the Peace Celebration with the great friendly nation to the south a much more impressive and important event than originally was anticipated.

Some months ago the Executives of the American and Canadian Associations agreed to set aside Sunday, February 14th, 1915, for special thanksgiving services, and to invite the churches of the two countries to act together in the matter. The reason for the selection of this date was that it would not conflict with the regular calendar in any of the Churches. Although the Treaty of Ghent was signed on Christmas Eve, 1814, owing to the necessarily slow rate at which news could travel in those days, the document did not reach Washington until February 14th, 1815. It was ratified by the Government of the United States on February 17th, 1815. February 14th, 1915, is, therefore, the nearest Sunday to the Centenary of the ratification of the Treaty.

The following letters have been received by the Organizing Secretary of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association from His Excellency