

and spiritual aspiration. The principle underlying the proposed league has undoubtedly been making progress. It has been solemnly endorsed by the House of Lords, after an illuminating debate, and its advocates have clothed it in so pleasing a guise that even Germany has of late shown some signs of a desire to be admitted to membership. We may be allowed, however, to doubt whether such a privilege could safely be conceded to a nation whose representatives have openly professed their conviction that war is in itself a good, God's medicine for the cure of human ills. There must first be a change of heart, and that may be more difficult after the forcible suppression of Prussian militarism by the Allies than it might have been if the German nation had dealt with the evil for itself. In England, the danger has been that those who look favourably on this proposal to form a League of Nations would get mixed up with the pacifists and Lord Lansdowne. The latter seemed to stultify himself when he said, within the limits of a single letter, that while he was not prepared to "affirm positively" that we had "reached the stage where there is a prospect of preliminary agreement upon essential points, and of profitable conversations," yet "no moment can be inopportune for the consideration of reasonable proposals put forward in good faith." The debate in the House of Lords followed the publication, toward the end of June, of a short pamphlet in which Viscount Grey sought to show that militarism has become the deadly enemy of mankind, and that the establishment and maintenance of a League of Nations is "more important and essential to a secure peace than any of the actual terms of peace that may conclude the war." One point brought out incidentally by the late Foreign Secretary is of great importance in its bearing on the discussions which so often arise between the advocates of imperial unity and the champions of autonomy. Lord Grey explicitly recognizes it as an essential condition that the Governments and peoples of the States willing to found a League of Nations shall "understand clearly that it will impose some limitation on the national action of each, and