

When a nation's heart is in the quarrel, when its blood is up, what occasion for strife is there which could not be brought under one or other of these two exceptions, "touching its national independence," or "affecting its honor."

Taking then Lord Russell's address as our *terminus a quo* as the point at which we may fix the highest that was looked for in 1896, we are at once in a position to measure the progress that has since been made. The advance has been not to any half-way house, but to the top of the hill. We seem to stand on the summit of the mountain when we read these splendid and uncompromising words spoken only last year by the President of the United States. In his address to the American Peace and Arbitration League of New York, on the 22d of March, 1910, Mr. Taft said:

Personally I do not see any more reason why matters of national honor should not be referred to a court of arbitration than matters of property or matters of national proprietorship. I know that is going further than most men are willing to go; but I do not see why questions of honor may not be submitted to a tribunal supposed to be composed of men of honor, who understand questions of national honor, and then abide by their decisions, as well as any other question of difference arising between nations.

And Mr. Taft when he used these words was not playing with a theory. He meant business. As the Lord Chancellor of England recently said:

When a man who holds an office such as that of President of the United States, which is not surpassed either in dignity or power by any position in the world—when he said what President Taft has said, he raises the hopes of mankind.

Let me add that when the President of the United States speaks he has humanity for his audience.

A few months later, in December of the same year, speaking before the American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes, the President used these memorable words:

If now we can negotiate and put through a positive agreement with some great nation to abide the adjudication of an international arbitral court in every issue which cannot be settled by negotiation, no matter what it involves, whether honor, territory or money, we shall have made a long step forward by demonstrating that it is possible for two nations at least to establish as between them the same system of due process of law that exists between individuals under a government.