

and aggression, and the press could do very much more than it is doing to exalt the days and the ways of peace, to soften international jealousies, to keep in check the ambitions of rulers and the passions of democracies, and bring nearer the parliament of man and the federation of the world.

In political controversy there will always be temper and vigor ; but vigor need not degenerate into virulence, and hard blows, so long as they are not delivered below the belt, give spirit to public debate and vitality to free institutions. One must have a stout heart if he would go into politics. But, after all, there is a spirit of fair play in Anglo-Saxon peoples, and a point at which malicious and unworthy pursuit of a public man turns to his advantage and brings chivalrous souls to his side. Except in seasons of unusual popular passion the people are quick to know where fair and legitimate criticism ends and vindictive pursuit begins, and once that point is reached the blows of the assailant fall harmless and the cause of the victim is promoted. In politics as in the prize ring the rules of the game must be observed, foul play wins no permanent advantage, and misrepresentation and falsehood gain no enduring success. The press of Canada conducts political debate upon perhaps a higher level than that of the United States, but we still fall distinctly below the standard which prevails in Great Britain. It is probably true that we often make a tremendous clamor over small issues, and often deal with large issues in a small way. Too often, it may be, we