

Therefore, for the sake of our country and the welfare of ourselves, let us hope that the New Year feeling will enter into our existence and remain with us to be a stimulus to new life and fresh exertions.

** **

THE OUTLOOK OF PEACE. How different are the relations existing to-day between England and the United States to what they were a year ago!

The New Year was ushered in in 1896, with threatenings of war and forbodings of hostilities between the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon people—ill omens that convulsed the world and made it tremble in dreadful expectancy. Flying squadrons were fitted out with the utmost despatch on the one hand, and money voted by Congress to defray war expenses on the other; the smell of powder was in the air and folks despaired of peace. By the exercise of dispassionate reason and the use of splendid self-restraint the danger was averted, however, and to-day we find such grand unanimity existing between the two nations that at this very moment an agreement to submit to arbitration all questions of dispute that may arise for the next five years between the great republic and the foremost power of Europe is on a fair way to completion. This is indeed a victory for civilization.

It is all very well to talk of the glory of war and the lustre of brave achievements, but is there not far more glory in the exercise of self-restraint and reason, than in an appeal to force and arms? After all is said and done, war cannot be classed as anything else than a relic of barbarism. In the old days individuals proceeded to settle their quarrels, not by an appeal to reason but by the exercise of force. Eventually, however, the courts of law were evolved, and established on the principle that, reason should prevail; and so it came about that those nations that accounted themselves most civilized adopted reason and dispensed with force in the adjustment of quarrels between the individual members of the state.

The barbarous system of force, however, still prevails among nations that call themselves civilized when approach-

ing international difficulties, though happily an arbitration tribunal, or an international law court, as it might be termed, is at last finding favor among those nations that stand most conspicuously for peace. This is, indeed, a stride in the right direction. That there is any need for war in this age few people will affirm, however much they contend that standing armies are necessary as a means to prevent it.

It is perhaps interesting to note that the Venezuelan outcry which, thanks to the jingoes, was immediately responsible for the complications of last year has proved directly accountable for the permanent peaceful understanding—for we cannot look upon five years agreement in any other light—that has been arrived at between the disputants. Had it not been for the war scare which the enemies of peace raised a year ago the present international agreement would, to-day, have hardly been an accomplished fact. Thus have foresight and reason triumphed over passion, and thus has prejudice been trampled under the heel of common sense. Contrasting the state of things to-day with what they were a year ago the outlook, indeed, augurs well for peace.

** **

CANADIANS FOR THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE. In the February, 1896, number of this MAGAZINE an article appeared from the pen of Mr. H. J. Wickham, dealing with the subject, entitled: "The British Navy of To-day." Among the points adduced in the article was that of the difficulty which the British Admiralty is experiencing in obtaining sufficient recruits for the present needs of the Navy. During the past year the question has been discussed pretty fully in Great Britain, and the futility of the policy of building more war vessels when the Admiralty has been unable to provide sufficient men to man those already in commission, was made apparent. In his article, Mr. Wickham adduced a plan showing how this trouble could be remedied; and with characteristic British pluck he has advocated his plan in season and out of season, with the result that a memorial has recently been prepared by the Navy League in Canada and presented to the Governor-General, praying that His