

## INTRODUCTION

OUR distinguished fellow countryman, Elihu Burritt, known alike as a scholar and a philanthropist, summed up in the following paragraph, written in 1871, the claim to grateful remembrance of his master and friend, William Ladd, whom he delighted to call the apostle of peace and whose *Essay on a Congress of Nations for the Adjustment of International Disputes without Resort to Arms*, originally published in 1840, is here reproduced:

When we consider that such a permanent High Court of Nations [advocated by Mr. Ladd in the *Essay*] would not only be the noblest and loftiest bar that could be established on earth for the appeal and settlement of all serious questions of difficulty between them, but that such a bar would be a bond of confederation to them, we must recognize the fullness of Mr. Ladd's plan for abolishing war, and establishing permanent and universal peace. He gave to the advocacy and development of this scheme years of indefatigable faith and effort. He enlisted a large number of writers to elaborate it with their best arguments and illustrations. As a stimulus to these efforts, the American Peace Society offered \$1,000 as a prize for the best essay on the subject. A considerable number were produced, and submitted to such a jury of award as Wirt, Webster, Story, and Marshall could form. As their excellence was so good and even, the jury could not desire to say which was the best. So, six of them were published in a large volume by the Society, including one written by Mr. Ladd himself, which developed the scheme more completely than any of the rest, and which to this day is accepted as its best exponent and argument. This was the largest and most costly volume ever published on either side of the Atlantic on the subject of peace. As soon as it left the press, Mr. Ladd set himself to the work of distributing copies to the crowned heads and leading men of Christendom with all the glowing zeal and activity which he brought to the cause. And it is the best tribute to his clear judicious mind that the main proposition as he developed it has been pressed upon the consideration of the public mind of