

*THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND ON  
INTERNATIONAL LAW.*

[Conclusion—From p. 272.]

In this field of humane work the United States took a prominent part. When the civil war broke out President Lincoln was prompt in entrusting to Professor Franz Lieber the duty of preparing a manual of systematized rules for the conduct of forces in the field—rules aimed at the prevention of those scenes of cruelty and rapine which were formerly a disgrace to humanity. That manual has, I believe, been utilized by the governments of England, France and Germany.

Even more important are the changes wrought in the position of neutrals in war times; who, while bound by strict obligations of neutrality, are in great measure left free and unrestricted in the pursuit of peaceful trade.

But in spite of all this who can say these times breathe the spirit of peace? There is war in the air. Nations armed to the teeth prate of peace, but there is no sense of peace. One sovereign burthens the industry of his people to maintain military and naval armament at war strength, and his neighbour does the like and justifies it by the example of the other; and England, insular though she be, with her imperial interests scattered the world over, follows, or is forced to follow, in the wake. If there be no war, there is at best an armed peace.

Figures are appalling. I take those for 1895. In Austria the annual cost of army and navy was, in round figures, 18 millions sterling; in France, 37 millions; in Germany, 27 millions; in Great Britain, 36 millions; in Italy, 13 millions, and in Russia, 52 millions.

The significance of these figures is increased, if we compare them with those of former times. The normal cost of the armaments of war has of late years enormously increased. The annual interest on the public debt of the great powers is a war tax. Behind this array of facts stands a tragic figure. It tells a dismal tale. It speaks of over-burthens industries, of a waste of human energy unprofitably engaged, of the squandering of treasure which might have let light into many lives, of homes made desolate, and all this, too often, without recompense in the thought that these sacrifices have been made for the love of country or to preserve national honor or for national safety. When will governments learn the lesson that wisdom and justice in policy are a stronger security than weight of armament?

" Ah! when shall all men's good,  
Be each man's rule, and universal peace,  
Lie, like a shaft of light, across the land."

It is no wonder that men—earnest men—enthusiasts, if you like, impressed with the evils of war, have dreamt the dream that the millenium of peace might be reached by establishing a universal system of international arbitration.

The cry for peace is an old world cry. It has echoed through all the