

The seed sown in Saratoga fell on fruitful soil, and in consequence the great cause of international arbitration has made more solid progress, not only between your country and mine, but throughout the world, during the fifteen years which have gone since Lord Russell spoke than in the 1500 years which went before. It is apparently always thus with you, whether in the world of thought or of action, or invention; the harvest which so slowly ripens elsewhere seems to come, in this favored land, to maturity with a rush. Russell of Killowen was a great judge and a strong judge, and politically was always in the front of the thought of his time. His views upon the scope and possibilities of international arbitration may safely be taken as standing for the high-water mark which the cause had then reached. If we turn now to the address at Saratoga Springs, we find it a lucid exposition of the history of the movement; its timid tentative growth is traced from its beginnings among the Greek states of old, through the fitful experiments in the Middle Ages down to the historic instances of modern times. When he came to deal with the future of the movement, the Chief Justice seemed to falter. When he looked forward, it was with a dim and doubtful vision. Even his hope seemed to have its limitations. He thought arbitration an admirable method for settling quarrels of peoples, when the subject matter in dispute was trivial in itself, or concerned with the interpretation of an obscure treaty, or the finding of a doubtful frontier.

It was only fifteen years ago, and yet we find this advanced thinker, this generous pioneer, ruling out whole classes of cases as too vital, too serious, too intimately concerning the honor of the peoples to be fit subject matter for settlement by arbitration. He enumerated a number of questions which led to national differences and to which arbitration may properly be applied, and that enumeration is satisfactory as far as it goes; but what a little way it does go. When we come to note the exceptions, we find all the great causes of quarrels are left outside; left to the blind deities of war. I quote:

But there are differences to which, even as between individuals, arbitration is inapplicable—subjects which find their counterpart in the affairs of nations. Men do not arbitrate where character is at stake, nor will any self-respecting nation readily arbitrate on questions touching national independence or affecting its honor.