

ready, not only to hear them, but to give us such ripened thought and experience in regard to them, as the time may allow. Our meetings are not so large, or unwieldy, but that the most timid and bashful man among us may find courage to speak. We hope, therefore, that all will feel, and will bear their full share of responsibility in sustaining the interest of them, and will come up, devoutly, praying for the presence and blessing of the Master of assemblies.

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### SWORDS TURNING TO PLOUGH-SHARES.

The prospect of a peaceful settlement of the *Alabama* claims, on the plan agreed to by the Joint High Commission, ought to fill every Christian heart with devout thanksgiving. Of the terms of the treaty signed by them, and now awaiting the sanction of their respective Governments, we have nothing to say, further than that it must be presumed that, while meeting in the interests of peace and Christian civilization, the several members of the Commission did their very best, all things considered, for the Powers they represented. And, therefore, we cannot but feel that, even though Canada should suffer some slight injustice under the treaty, our Parliament would be assuming a very grave responsibility in rejecting it. A little concession now may make us fast friends forever; while the opposite course may provoke jealousies and bitter animosities, the fruits of which it is impossible to foresee.

The world is growing wiser. The nations are learning that there is a better and juster way of settling their disputes than by an appeal to arms. The advancing intelligence and humanity of the age has put an end to duelling and boxing, formerly the favourite pastime of a certain type of "gentlemen," and war is but an "affair of honour" upon a larger scale, in which the stronger Power is, not unfrequently, at once the wrongdoer and the victor. There is reason to hope that the increasingly frightful cost of war, both in life and money, will shortly compel the nations to a more rational mode of adjusting their difficulties. We are not sure but the latter will be felt to be, in many cases, a more powerful persuasive than the former. France will soon forget her brave sons, whose blood has been so vainly shed to gratify her ambition; but she will not soon forget the five thousand millions of francs (about forty thousand tons of silver), which she has to pay to indemnify Prussia, or the probably equal amount expended by her in carrying on the war, and lost in the destruction of her cities and public works. With her treasury exhausted, and her credit gone, she will not be able, for some years at least, to revenge herself on her adversaries, however much she may desire it; and, by the time she is sufficiently recovered to do it, let us hope that the prophecy of peace held out to us, in the blessed Bible with which her wounded and imprisoned soldiers have been supplied, may have begun to be fulfilled, when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

We have strong hope, indeed, that the action of Great Britain and