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ARBITRATION AND PEACE. **T**HE speakers at the Pilgrims Society's dinner in London in honour of Mr. John Hays Hammond, special U. S. ambassador to the coronation, are credited with having made the best four after-dinner speeches heard in London for a long time. As the speakers were Mr. Balfour, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Birrell and Mr. Chauncey M. Depew, this is not difficult to believe. They suffered, however, from the necessary limitations of the occasion. Mr. Hammond recognised these when he alluded to the difficulties surrounding the diplomatic representative in choosing a topic for public utterance. For this reason he had chosen the subject of Peace, as one that could not offend the most sensitive and one particularly appropriate, since the coronation had brought together in friendly concourse the representatives of all the nations of the world.

It suggests the idea that the choice of any other subject might turn out a *casus belli*. There was something pathetic, however, in the unanimity with which the orators fell into the error of assuming the consummation of an Arbitration Treaty to be synonymous with the reign of peace. One would imagine the date of the dawn of the Millennium to be only a question of enough treaties. Even Mr. Balfour talked about arbitration as innocently as though he had gathered all his ideas on the subject from the goody-goody books and believed in the source of his information as firmly as Tom Sawyer believed in the story books. He observed that "Americans had their problems of Empire and other difficulties just as Great Britain had, and whatever temporary quarrels had from time to time appeared between England and the United States, the realities of history were too strong for them. They could not help being in sympathy with each other. Both countries were enamored of liberty; both had the same ideals, and surely it was predestined that in the world's history of the future they should work together, not by formal alliance, but by deep sympathy in aims and ideals for the cause of civilization and progress."

The thought that arbitration might be a cause of war was not hinted at, but lots of Canadians, speaking from the depths of their own experience, feel that some big wars have been fought for less causes than certain arbitration treaties in which the United States of America has been the party of the other part. Would any arbitration treaty have made the United States permit such an alienation of territory as Canada suffered by the Boundary

Treaty, which brought the American frontier almost to the shores of the Lower St. Lawrence? President Taft is another enthusiast for arbitration, perhaps as being a cheaper way than war for the United States to get whatever it wants. He puts his trust in arbitration, but he keeps his gun boats up to date on the Great Lakes.

THE RECIPROCITY FIGHT AT WASHINGTON. **T**HE principal effect of the Canadian Reciprocity Bill promises to be to infuse new life into the tariff issue for many years. "Nothing is settled," we are told, "until it is settled right," and those who hope for a permanent settlement of the tariff question by the adoption of the agreement between Canada and the United States are likely to be disappointed. Already there is a rankling sense of injustice among many of the classes most directly affected on both sides of the line. The American farmers declare that the whole burden of free trade is to be placed upon them, and the American manufacturers see in the agreement the thin end of the wedge which is to destroy the principle of protection to manufacturing industry. It is generally conceded that the chief advantages of the bargain will fall to the much hated trusts and the newspapers. One trouble is that the ultimate object in view is not the same with all the friends of the treaty. Some are aiming at free trade, some at annexation, some at a reduction of the cost of living to the class rather arbitrarily designated "the consumers," as though every man, woman and child in the country were not a consumer, and perhaps the most influential, some who are simply actuated by a yearning for cheap news print paper. The Republican advocates of the treaty distrust their Democratic allies and the Democrats, with even greater reason, distrust the Republicans within their gates. Even between the United States and Canada the consummation of the bargain does not mean tariff peace, but the commencement of a new tariff war. The friends of the pact have dug up the hatchet which has been buried for years. The greater their success, the greater will be the incentive they give to the enemy to fight and to stand on guard for a long time. Among manifold issues this will be the dominant one with a powerful class which will feel safer in the hands of its friends than in those of its foes.