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Lines Worth Preserving

A MILE WITH ME.

WHO will walk a mile with me
Along life's merry way?

A comrade blithe and full of glee,
Who dares to laugh out loud and free,
And let his frolic fancy play,
Like a happy child through the flowers gay
That fill the field and fringe the way
Where he walks a mile with me.

And who will walk a mile with me
Along life's weary way?
A friend whose heart has eyes to see
The stars shine out o'er the darkening lea,
And the quiet rest at the end of the day,—
A friend who knows and dares to say
The brave, sweet words that cheer the way
Where he walks a mile with me.

With such a comrade, such a friend,
I fain would walk till journey's end,
Through summer sunshine, winter rain,
And then?—Farewell, we shall meet again!
Henry van Dyke.

Our Outlook

WAR PREPARATIONS AND THE WORLD'S PEACE.

The great Peace Conference at The Hague cannot be in vain. Light is never turned upon a great wrong to leave that wrong just as it was before. In the long run the world must be a gainer by every such movement.

This much is said in answer to the pessimist who sees no good in any endeavor which is not crowned with instant success. Yet in the forward march of the world we must take note of errors and profit by them. Quite recently Ambassador Reid, in an address in London, spoke of King Edward and President Roosevelt as "two men who share the belief that in preparation for war is to be found the greatest security for peace."

When such a theory is made the basis of national security the nation is no more secure than if built upon a range of volcanic mountains.

The old world thought safety for the city depended upon strong fortifications and armed forces, but these were always a challenge to some one to come and attack them. When modern nations arm to the teeth and seek out the latest inventions for human destruction they do not make one remove from the old robber barons and feudal wars and like them they stand—a boastful challenge saying with the jingoes of old England:

"We don't want to fight
But by jingo if we do" etc.

Standing Armies Bring War.

It may be true that we have not yet reached that stage of civilization when we can, with safety, stop all drill and training and armaments, and perhaps it will never be desirable that we should do so. Physical development and patriotic courage would probably suffer if we had no soldier-like drill.

But surely this is no excuse for enlightened nations arming themselves to their utmost and aiming at the production of slaughter engines to accomplish the most ruin in the shortest time.

Standing armies are standing menaces between nations. They are national pugilists in constant training for a "coming event." More than this, they have no other business, and they are interested—like pugilists—in provoking a fight in order to attain promotion and fame. They are, therefore, professional agitators against peace.

Does Safety Rest Upon Being Armed?

The Boston Sunday Herald, recently referring to this subject, said:

"A man traveling on business in the old world two or three centuries ago deemed it prudent to be accompanied with a strong guard, as they do in certain places now that are not wholly redeemed from barbarism. The early settlers in America built stockades around their towns, and carried guns with them to church, for protection against the Indians.

"None of these precautions are deemed necessary now. Why should nations now feel obliged to maintain armies and navies as the Goths and Vandals, the Romans and Gauls, and the war-making nations the last century did? Is civilization a failure?

"It is not historically true that 'in preparation for war is to be found the greatest security for peace.' The rulers of France thought they were well prepared for war in 1870, and so seized upon an alleged affront by the Prussian King to their ambassador to precipitate a conflict for which they had been planning.

"The Germans were even better prepared, and so readily accepted the challenge. If both powers had not deemed themselves equipped for the fray there would have been no war.

"The same situation existed before the recent war between Japan and Russia. Japan was armed and eager. Russia was strong and ready. Hence the war, that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions in treasure.

"On the other hand, the United States was for seventy years quite unprepared for attack by a first class naval power, and yet was never more assured of 'peace with all nations' because of our traditional policy of minding our own business and submitting international differences to arbitration.

"There ought to be no more reason today why any civilized nation should maintain a standing army and a great navy than there is for a citizen to wear a coat of armor and employ a band of fighting men, or carry a bowie knife in his belt and a six-shooter in each boot-leg, as he goes about his business. The 'greatest security for peace' is in being peaceful."

The Double Cost of Armies.

We are accustomed to the statistics which estimate the direct cost of war, but we are not so familiar with the facts of the indirect cost.

It is said that one-third of the people of Europe are paupers or are bordering upon that extreme pov-

erty which compels them to seek relief from the public funds.

Now among the causes of this alarming condition of poverty strong drink has a first place, but its claim to first is challenged by the great standing armies, which, in times of peace as well as of war, are the greatest of all drains upon self-support and productive effort.

To those who have passed down the noble avenue which leads from Charing Cross to the British Houses of Parliament, the gates of the "Horse Guards" are a familiar sight. At those gates there has been for, at least, two hundred years four men on horseback, and never for one second has that imaginary defense been absent from that spot.

Let any school boy count up, if he can, the cost to the English nation of those four men and four horses stationed for twenty-four hours every day for 200 years. Then let him estimate what those four men and four horses—or their equivalent—could have earned or produced and he may get a faint conception of the indirect cost of an army in times of peace.

Labor is taxed—not only for the maintenance of the men and the horses but also for the loss of the product which they might have given to the common wealth.

It is said that in Europe every three men carries a soldier on their shoulders. Is there any wonder that there is great poverty and pauperism?

A COUNTRY WITHOUT A DEBT.

If we can point to such a country we imagine it ought to interest all taxpaying citizens. Yet this is the announcement of Senor Y. Calderon, minister from Bolivia to the United States, in speaking of the country which he represents. His address, which was given under the auspices of the National Geographical Society, is published in the National Geographical Magazine for September, and is of such a character that it should be read by every high school student. We are especially interested in Mr. Calderon's eloquent eulogy of the Monroe doctrine, which we quote from the above named magazine.

The Monroe Doctrine and the Panama Canal.

Never was there proclaimed a more vital, lasting or grander principle than the Monroe Doctrine, which in its purest interpretation, is the consecration of all America to republican life; that is to say, the dignification of man and the empire of justice, and the right to work out his own destiny without the tutelage of kings or classes or any other sovereignty than that of citizen and ballot.

We are thankful and render our tribute of admiration to the history and civilization of Europe; we study the books of her thinkers; enjoy the magnificent works of her artists, of her poets, and of those who have so highly elevated the intellectual level of mankind. We desire and solicit the concurrence of America is destined to be the throne of liberty her noble races; but in the political order, the whole and right, where mankind will advance to the highest ideals of his divine mission in the world. And when the barrier separating the grand republic from her sisters of the south is removed by the completion of the Panama Canal, the two great oceans made one, it is necessary that the bonds of union and of mutual interest and respect be already established on the firm basis of peace and justice.

The Panama Canal will open a new horizon to commerce, and it might be said that it will be the material consecration of the Monroe Doctrine which excludes conquest from America, where, under the inspiration of democracy, freedom and justice, the Christian brotherhood of mankind will be perpetuated."