

The New Era.

When we are most securely snuggled in the warm comfortables of our snug complacency ^{on} the narrow couch of provincial patriotism, a sudden alarm that arouses us to the world of large things finds us stupified and ^{sluggish} lethargic. Such is the situation to-day. When I selected the subject of this sermon before going away on my vacation, we were still, as a people, resting upon the soft couch of Universal peace, ~~and~~ Christian Civilization and modern feelings of good-will, — unwilling to believe that Europe could become embroiled in war. So confident were we that the countries of Europe were too civilized, too thoroughly impregnated with the teachings of International Peace, too keenly conscious of the tremendous cost in life and wealth, to permit themselves to be drawn into war, that up to the very moment of conflict, we seemed to believe that such a war as is now devastating Europe was a thing impossible and unimaginable. But all these soft delusions have been ruthlessly thrust aside. The armed peace of

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Western Civilization has been broken, and the most brutal war of ~~his~~ history is now being staged.

Yet I find that such a calamity as we are now forced to recog- 2
nize has no material effect upon what I wished to say at the opening
service of this year's work in this fellowship. In fact this war
but makes more pungent, to me at least, but neither more nor less
true, the principles which I wished to call to your attention. Quite
regardless of personalities and superficial incidents, the present
war is the logical, if not the inevitable result of the last century
of Christian History. You may have wondered why I have not ~~revealed~~
shown any great interest in the World Peace Movement. It is because
I have felt that so long as the stakes in international competition
are the bread and butter of the people, developments inot open breach-
es of peace are inevitable. When people get hungry they fight. Kaiser
er William II, of Germany remarkable both for his insight, and his
frank speaking stated the essence of modern imperialism, its pur-

poses, ~~and~~ its methods, and its spirit in a sermon delivered to the crew and officers on board the Hohenzollern Sunday, July 29, ~~1914~~ 1900

This was at the time of the Boxer uprising, which represented a desperate attempt on the part of patriotic Chinamen to resist the encroachments of Imperialistic Christendom upon the integrity of their national life. The Kaiser in this sermon but declares openly what we all know was the real attitude of the Nations of the West. He is speaking from the text, "But as long as Moses held up his hands, praying, Israel prevailed : but when he lowered his hands, Amalek prevailed". After recalling the ~~historical~~ incidents of this story, and vividly picturing the conflict between Moses and Amalek, he goes on to say, "And who to-day does not understand the lesson it con-
~~veys~~veys ? For again the pagan spirit of Amalek has stirred in far Asia, and with great cunning and power, with fire and murder, they seek to hinder the triumphal march of Christian morals. Christ

tian Faith, of European Commerce and education. and again God has ordered; 'Choose men; go forth and fight against Amalek.' This pas- 4
sage lays bare the entire purpose, method and spirit of Imperialistic program of Western Civilization. United in their efforts to divide the trade of China, but fighting in their struggle among themselves.

The surviving remnants of a nationalistic patriotism, impregnated by the more sordid aspects of industrial expansion, has given ~~rise~~ birth this national competition, to this commercial imperialism, loading us down with intolerable standing armies, and burdensome navies, and finally plunging Europe into this fratricidal war. Whether it is England in India, or Belgium, England, France ~~or~~ Germany in South Africa, or the United States in the Philippines or Cuba, or all of them together in China, buying the integrity of a nation, it is in the expression of the same industrial imperialism, dominated by a spirit of exploitation, self-seeking in purpose, and war-like in ~~method~~ method if occasion demands. Stripped of all its verbiage and frills

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In fact when stripped of all its verbiage and frills, the militant foreign missionary movement is but an expression of this same imperialistic point of view. Absolutism, authority, and ~~proselytizing~~ proselyting in religion ; exploitation, profits and Mammonism in industry and commerce ; imperialism and armed force in national life; secret alliances, jingo patriotism , leading inevitably to open war in international affairs. These are the forces that have been at work for the past hundred years especially, dressed at times in the soft garments of international friendliness, robed frequently in the white raiments of benevolent protectorates or a passionate zeal for saving the souls of the heathen/ but always and forever backed by the assumption that when this triumphal march of Christian Morals, of Christian faith, of European Commerce, and education is resisted by a poor folk, then we are commanded by God as the Kaiser declares to draw the sword. But now the sword is drawn, and the mask is thrown off and the card-house of international friendliness, and Christian

religion ,so-called, has fallen to the ground in a mass of ruins.

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"But," you say, "the United States is different." "It is not involved in this struggle." "It maintains its position of neutrality. It is at peace with the world." Not so fast. But a few months since we stood upon the brink of war with a neighbor nation, and the forces that were trying with all their might to force the issue were those same imperialistic industrial forces that have ~~forced the war~~ driven Europe to her slaughter. We have been imperialistic. Perhaps the war has passed. I hope so. But the fact remains that our neutrality today is not so much the result of a higher ethical standards of the nation as a whole as it is the fact that we are geographically isolated. In common with other nations we hold dominion over conquered tribes, by power of sword and the fear of sword. To our discredit be it recalled that our conquests were gained over a weak and ~~impotent~~ impotent nation and people. Our attitude towards the real nature of the situation is revealed by hopes which we have as to the effect

of this war upon our own country. You know as well as I know that we are much more interested in the problem of taking advantage of this European war to further of interests in foreign markets, than we are as to the possible results in making way for a more inspired and richer civilization. The government is expected to bend all its energies to promoting our control on foreign markets. To be specific we are interested right here in Pittsfield, and in this room to know whether the ~~industrial~~ suspension in Germany may not give our own electrical ~~concern~~ interests the advantage in competing in South America, and thus enable us to profit by Germany's misfortune. We ~~seek~~ seek to fatten on another's distress. We are part and parcel of the same scramble for foreign markets and the complications that this struggle gives rise to that is in the background of this war. We are fortunate in our isolation, but it is a fortune that we have no ~~right~~ right to gloat over.

Still further it is to be noted that the effects of such purposes and methods of national life and civilized development are to be seen not only in the ravages of ~~peace~~ of war, but in the ravages of peace as well. What results can be affected in times of war we are now ~~not~~ being shown in a most convincing manner. Even the wildest flight of our imagination cannot grasp the full significance of the loss and devastation involved. Yet I sometimes think that the ravages of national competition in times of peace are quite as ~~terrible~~ ~~as in times of war~~ brutal and quite as grinding as in times of war. Again I refer to a significant passage from a letter of instruction by the German Kaiser to the Imperial Chancellor, in which he states clearly the essential burden which national competition throws upon the shoulders of the working classes. This letter refers to an attempt that he was making to bring about an international agreement to better the conditions of the working classes. Under date of Feb. 8, 1890, instructs the Imperial Chancellor to set in motion the ~~machinery~~ ^{machinery}

for the purpose of formulating an international agreement with France, Belgium, England and Switzerland for meeting the desires and requirements of the laboring classes. Note carefully the language and its implications. "I am resolved to assist, so far as the limitations drawn by the necessity of keeping German industry in condition to compete with the world's markets permit me, in meliorating the condition of German working man. Serious losses, of course, of our home industries by reason of a decrease in our exports would not only injure the employers, but would also ~~injure~~ deprive their employes of the means of existence. The difficulties created by international competition when trying to improve the condition of our laboring classes can only be partially overcome by international agreement among those countries most interested in the world's markets." This is the crux of the whole problem. Commerce and industrial expansion in competition with human life. It is because of the fact of

(the situation so clearly set forth in the Kaiser's statement , that I hold to the opinion that these present wars are but an acute expression , a dramatic clash of forces that, ~~have~~ for a hundred years, by a slow process of semi-starvation and excessive toil, been devitalizing the laboring classes of the modern world, and , at the same time , have been brutalizing all society. The pressure of these forces, expressing themselves both in industry and politics has retarded the development of western civilization, has sent the Irish , the Germans, the English , the Scotch, the Scandinavian, the Italian, and finally the Eastern European to this new Western world in search of a chance to life. Finally their pressure is again manifested in the poverty, the unemployment, the congestion of our industrial cities own ~~country~~ to-day, in our labor troubles, and in our interminable social problem. As the German Kaiser so clearly implies not only are the ravages of war but the ravages of peace chargeable to the fundamental purposes and methods of this international industrial competition.

The present war, is but the logical / not to say the inevitable culmination of the process that has been going on¹ for decades. It is useless to say that this ~~xxx~~ ruler or that ruler is responsible for this war, and still more absurd to say that it is ~~due~~ due to a series of blunders. Its causes are more fundamental. The world moves under the dominion of an inexorable logic. Whatsoever a man or a nation sows, that shall it also reap. We have been sowing the seeds of disruption and conflicts among nations, and we are reaping the fruits thereof to-day.

But in speaking thus of international competition and exchange, I am by no means blind to the essential constructive character of the process described. Quite apart from the serious limitations which I have thus mentioned, and the evils resulting therefrom, we must not overlook the great advantages which have accrued to society through this very process. Not only has the industrial development of the past century, stimulated by national competition, made vast

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strides in the advancement of the power of man over nature, and ^{the} the perfection of the tools of production and distribution, but quite as important have ^{been} the advantages resulting from the breaking down of barriers, the elimination of prejudices, the interchange of thought, and the comparative study of ethical and religious standards. The very channels of communication that have carried the products of industry from one people to another, the very ~~methods of furthering~~ methods employed in furthering this industrial competition among nations have also served as channels of an international comity that in the long run is bound to develop relations as soundly peaceful ~~as the~~ and as fundamentally constructive as the forces now dominating international relationships are disruptive. For be it recalled that out of this interplay of nations has developed those ideas of democracy and modernism whose rise as working forces in ~~our~~ society are almost contemporaneous with the rise of industrial nationalism. T

Their slow and steady spread in the face of an established opposition into fields not only of politics, but intellect, science, education and religion is one of the great, it is the great achievement of the last century. In the midst of the turmoil of war and peace among nations to-day, in the midst of the pressing problems of the social order, the increasing strength of the appeal of the democratic principles in modern life is the witness for a fairer day in the world's history. This is what I wish to say at this time. You are facing problems and adventures in life at a time when the most interesting

developments of known history are taking place. The establishment of the principles of democracy in the organized life of man, making ~~xxx~~ and real ~~xx~~ effective in the common life, and the relations of men those great principles that have been gleaned from the interplay of nations, and from the development of industrial society during the past hundred years or more, that is the challenging ~~problem~~ task to which the times in which we live call us. When President Wilson sent out is call for

day devoted to prayer for peace among the nations of Europe he was voicing a thought that has sprung again and again into the minds of men since the ravages of the present war began. But how impotent and helplessness men have felt. On the one side the great hope of international relationships based upon friendliness and good will. On the other side the cold facts of people of the same great race, of the same religious traditions engaged in a most brutal war. Is the dream of world peace a sham and a mockery. Is the hope of domestic tranquility a lie? ~~Not so~~

It is all a sham and a lie you have said at one moment, and then you have risen to the faith in the substantial integrity of life and the universe in which you have lived. You have settled yourself quietly to fight out within yourself this ever present antagonism between fact and hope, and you have learned that the hope of to-day becomes the fact of to-morrow. But just the hope itself is of no avail. The task of men and the task of man is to ~~examine~~ achieve and establish the reality of hope. This conception of domestic peace and justice, this conception

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of a just international comity is something new under the sun. Only now
are we coming to see that God is not a God of the Christians alone, but
of the Buddhist, and mohamadan ~~as well~~ as well. Our absoluteism has de-
parted. We are giving way to an interchange of values. The trouble is
that these new conceptions have not been made flesh in the established
relations of men. In the established relations of men, the old order of
absolutism, authority, arrogant self-sufficiency, backed by brute force
still obtain, and these purposes and methods which have brought on the
war of Europe are falling by the weight of their own impotency. Every
social development carries within itself the antitoxin that cures its
own maladies. The era of industrial imperialism has broken down the
barriers of nations, softened the prejudices of races, and paved the
way for the emergence of those principles which will ~~supercede~~ bring a
new order out of the present chaos. The principles of absolutism, im-
perialism, arrogant authority have done their work, and ~~these~~ are now

showing the impotency of ~~their~~ decay. Out of their ruins are rising ~~like~~
with greater clearness than the world has ever seen, the essential prin- 16
ciples of democracy whose purpose is the development, not of states,
and nations, and ecclesiastical organizations, but the development of men
strong, efficient, self reliant, and free; whose methods are, not those
of force, and competition for the daily bread of men, but methods of
co-operation, fellowship, respect and integrity.

This is a task worthy of real men and women, To it you are
called by the exigences of the times in which you live. First of all
must we understand its essential purpose. Not the building of a great
nation, but the development of great free people, whose common inter-
ests are accomplished in a common organization ; not the building of
a great ecclesiastical order, but ~~inxxxx~~ a simple fellowship for
things of the spirit; not a big foreign trade, and a great ^{national} ~~industrial~~
prosperity, but the elimination of Hunger and poverty, the inclusive
common command over the resources of nature ; In short we seek life

in its fullness and its richness, its adventure and its freedom from the pressure of a grinding toil and monotony. 17

Above all and most difficult is to follow and extend the methods of democracy. Not force, not authority, not bombardment, but the ~~rational~~ methods which science has adopted applied to all the relations of life. Applied in politics, applied in religion, education and art. The method of patient, experiment and careful demonstration with the mind open to every new fact, ready for each new development with a mind always forward looking, proving all things and holding fast to those that experience show ~~the~~ to be true. Duly grateful for all that the past has done, entirely acknowledging all that we have inherited, but never idolizing products of the past, whether they be graven images, printed books or great souls. Great as the past has been, it is incomparable with what the future will be. The great things both in art and religion, both in men and institutions for men are ahead of

us , not before us. And at this moment we are trimming ourselves for
the most enriching era in history. I bid you to have confidence in the
integrity of your own souls, in the integrity of ^{the} ~~your~~ universe in ~~the~~ 18
in which you live. The dreams of justice, the conceptions of an ex-
halted manhood and womanhood have developed in your minds , and are
surviving there because the universal environment demands them, ~~has~~
because ~~that~~ it nurtures them, and is establishing them. The passing
drama of the death struggles of the ^{worn} ~~worked~~ out principles of an indus-
trial imperialism are as nothing compared to the quiet, persistent
spread of the principles ~~of~~ ^{and} methods of democracy. The former is
with the past, the latter lies unfulfilled at your very feet, calling
you to a life, and a task without parallel in the history of man.