"Then he showed four lights when he wished them to set full sail and follow in his wake."

From "First Voyage 'Round the World by Magellan."

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**Four Lights**

**AN ADVENTURE IN INTERNATIONALISM**

**Issue VII.**

APRIL 21, 1917

And now that this fate has come upon me, I cannot cast away the reasons which I gave in former times; for they still appear to me as good as ever; and I honor and reverence them just as I did before.

Socrates.

"No order of a President or a Governor will persuade me or force me to this business of killing. On this issue—for me at least—there is no compromise. Once war is here the churches will be called upon to enlist, as will every other social institution. Therefore would I make it plain that so long as I am your minister the Church of the Messiah will answer no military summons. Other clergy may pray to God for victory for our arms; I will not. In this church, if nowhere else in all America, the Germans will still be included in the family of God’s children. No word of hatred shall be spoken against them, no evil fate shall be desired upon them.

"I will remember without distinction the peoples of all lands who bear this day the agonies laid upon them by the Governments which deceive and use them."

John Haynes Holmes.

What our blood-soaked earth needs is a new conscience. The moral conscience of mankind must be educated to brand war—all wars—as stupid, futile, wrong. In indirect ways which we do not foresee, this war may be creating in millions of men and women and children, on both sides of national boundaries, hatred of war. It is our privilege and duty to create this moral conscience, directly and consciously. The moralization of our race is a slow process, so slow that we are tempted to despair when our ideals utterly fail. But we must believe that as the savage came out of the brute, in the evolution of our race, so the civilized man will ultimately result from the savage. The natural man, governed by vengeance and making use of a club, will in time—in God’s good-time—give way to the spiritual man, governed by love and making use of persuasion and conference. For that day we must work now and in that hope sustain our souls.

John Howard Melish.
What We May Do To-day

War has been declared against Germany by the United States. Flags are flung from houses and tents, schools, from factories and churches. Boys and young men are parading the streets with rifles, and children, too small to go to battle, are drilling with sticks and toy pistols.

We hear the Star Spangled Banner at every place of amusement and in every green ring with the cry of "America first." We have an enemy, and our boys of eighteen and younger are too young to vote but not too young to execute the will of the people, and though not permitted to act they want to vote to protect the nation.

We may not meet the same fate as the Milky Way, but if we really enter upon the path of fraternity, it will never permit its continuance. That was what Miss Rankin's vote said to the women of America and to millions of women in war-torn countries.

It must be a comfort, my dear, to be stuffed full of sawdust. Your eyes must be weary of the bread—

And such nasty bread, too:

And no meat or pudding, not even on Sunday.

And wailing up at night to think of fresh milk and sausages, with your knees to your chin to keep the ache away.

You are just as fat as when the war began.

But feel of my arm, isn't it skinny?

I'm as skinny as farmer Max's cow,

As thin as my kitten they killed last week.

If Otto had been here he would never have let them.

You remember Otto, my brother Otto?

He sent you his love in the very last letter he wrote.

But Otto is dead and now they have taken my kitten.

Do you know when the train stops?

I do. Mother told me herself:—

When all of the children are hungry, hungerier than I am:

When the little French boys, you remember them, don't you, they wear such funny long coats.

And the Russian babies they wrap up tight from the cold;

And those girls in bright petticoats way off in Pledsznos;

And all of the children in wicked and cruel old England;

When they all are as hungry as hungry.

So their knees shake each time they go walking—

The way Grunty Thelika shuffles and stumbles.

When they dream, as I did last night, of giants and ogres.

When the babies cry all night, monotone, in each bar, but each minute.

Then, Mother says, the war will be done and all our foes will be conquered.

My throat aches down to the waist.

I wish I were like you and stuffed full of sawdust.

MARY WHITE O'CONNOR.

Gretchen Talks To Her Doll

We Are the Sick and Spent

We are the sick and spent. We will lie down.

And sleep, though we must make a bloody bed.

We will lie down beneath God's tattered tent.

This is enough to know: we will put down

Our guns and we will bury all our dead.

We will put down our guns before the foe.

For they are foe no more. We will not kill

The children in their tents.

We will not kill, who have run red with war.

Lon! we have risen from sleep; madle again

This is the clean white victory of Christ—

Made whole again, we will sow seed and reap.

LEslIE NELSON JENNINGS.

The Gods

One after one, men worshipped them:

The rock, the tree, the serpent,—sun, and storm.

One after one they fell; and then

The King "The Nation"!—What at last?

The "still, small voice" within the soul of Man.

ANNE THROOP CRAIG.

Some of Our Congressmen

Jenevieve Rankin, Montana: "I want to stand by my principles and vote against war."

George W. Norris, Utah: "I charge no man here with a wrong motive but it seems to me that this war creates a divided Congress."

W. F. Kirby, Arkansas: "I have seen the war sentiment gather in by the thousands."

H. E. Hull, Iowa: "I believe when I vote against this resolution I will vote the sentiment of the great majority of the common people."

One must take for his resolution because of the unwise way it is being railroaded through this Congress."

Edward Keating, Colorado: "When you vote for this bill, it will give the President of the United States the authority to send American boys to Europe."

A. J. Gronna, North Dakota: "Let me remind the Senate that we are not the government, let me remind you that Congress is not the government; let me remind you that the President of the United States is not the government, but the 100,000,000 people are the sovereign power of this country. Why do we refuse to answer for their decision a question so important to the future welfare of our people? Why do we price their petitions which we have by the hundreds of thousands, asking us to avert a war? The European countries are today regretting that they precipitated a war. The people are sick to death of death and death, wishing that they could find a way to end it. Selfishness was the cause of beginning this cruel, bloody war in those places. The nation's pleas prevent the end of it."

From St. Louis, Mo. Telegram to Hoo, A. J. Gronna: "Unions embargo is promptly placed on grain and foodstuffs, it is more likely than there will be riots in nearly every large city."

(John H. Blessing.)

E. J. King, Illinois: "Germany has told us in so many words that when we strike at her little boys in Liverpool she will, when they reach the prohibited zone, sink them without warning, with all on board, with all her guns. But if we attempt to sail our same boats to Hamburg, a punishment of some sort will befall us, for we are nearer; it will sink them without warning with all on board."

Meyer London, New York: "Why has not the President now again asked that the nations of the world make an effort to get together? Why should we not all stand together? Why should we not all appeal to the people to come forward and avert this catastrophe that is coming on in a three or four months' stoppage of this slaughter so that if the representatives of the free people of the world—the free democracies of which he speaks, should have an op­portunity to get together and take up the question of peace and war? But if any of the above average members of Congress will, against his own convictions and against his own judgment, as the President sent him to vote. The elected Representatives of the people should speak their mind freely. Our newspapers do not make the facts, but the French Chamber of Deputies, in the English Parliament of German Reichstag, in the Austrian Reichsrath and in the Russian Duma there have been minorities all the time during the war. Here an at­temp is being made to suppress every free expression of opinion before a declaration of war."
COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

It is evident that for the masses the day of the old American ideal has gone, the day of the initiative, self-government, individual freedom, which made America what it is. America is no longer the young, undeveloped land with plenty for all. It is taking on the marks of the older, congested, fixed civilization against which it revolted in 1776. What is wanted now is an America subservient, made docile in the name of efficiency, submissive in the name of preparedness, drilled into automatic obedience to an upper class in the name of patriotism.

Listen to Colonel Colt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Defence Society:

"Most of our citizens, possessed of good old-fashioned common sense, would grasp in short order the truths of unpreparedness if those truths were brought home to them in the right fashion. Intensive preparedness education will do this. For the youth of the land, part of this education should be a strong uncompromising system of universal military service. Legislate this system into being and the youth of the country will be lined up for preparedness by the time he reaches the voting age."

That is, stamp the mind with the military ideal while the boy is young. Read the Colonel's next paragraph and ask, before it is too late, if this be the direction for American education:

"Our great weakness in this country—a weakness that stands out like the spines on a cactus plant—is that we argue too much. Instead of telling the traitorous and un-American pacifist to shut up or get out of the country, we try to make him come around to our way of thinking. This cannot be done. The pacifist will remain disloyal to the end."

Disloyal—Jane Addams, President Jordan! Disloyal—when President Wilson himself has declared that he wants to hear from all the people first before he acts in their name! If this outburst of military rigor is what has happened in only the last few weeks, what else, when this spirit is reinforced as it will be, by war, is likely to overtake liberties vastly more precious than the freedom of our exporters to ship their goods in war-time where they please? HENRY NEUMANN.

Mary K. Reely,
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White Plains, N. Y.

I went to Washington, the capitol of the nation, on the birthday of the Emancipator. There I saw the congressmen in their legislative chambers or talked with them in their offices. North and South, East and West, all were present, a great gathering representing a multitude of conflicting opinions upon the one topic, war.

Now I am back at home looking across the river at the richest city on the earth. The sun has set and thousands of lights are twinkling in the tall, beautiful office buildings. Here is the commerce and the industry of the world. In those myriad rooms with their twinkling lights men determine our life. They decide upon our food, our clothing, our light, our warmth. It rests with them where we shall dwell and how we shall travel to and from our homes. In them we live and breathe or gasp and die.

"Silly!" the office lights blink at me. "Why go away? Where wealth is, there power is also. The seat of the government is here."

And down the bay Liberty holds up her torch.

This issue of Four Lights is edited by:

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