Four Lights

"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."

AN ADVENTURE IN INTERNATIONALISM

"If the peace presently to be made is to endure.... it must be a peace without victory.... Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser.... It would be accepted in humiliation, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice, and would leave a sting, a resentment, a bitter memory, upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand."

PRESIDENT WILSON'S ADDRESS TO THE SENATE.

"PEACE UNDER PROVOCATION."

In the last agony of the great European struggle one of the combatants defies the requirements already definitely set up by the American government. Diplomatic relations have been severed as an almost automatic consequence. The country is at peace with expectation of the outcome.

What this outcome will be depends on how far the United States is, as Wells has called it, "incurably pacifist," or as I should prefer to say, how truly enlightened and humane.

This country has a unique opportunity to be of service along the lines outlined in the President's noble "declaration of interdependence" of January twenty-second. If it takes part in the fight, it turns its back on this unparalleled opportunity to act as mediator and disinterested friend when the time of settlement comes.

And not only this: this war has opened the minds of hosts of persons to a realizing sense of what war really is. If they are numerous enough and brave enough, then for the first time in history a powerful nation will deliberately choose to act on those principles which a rational and humane person would follow in private affairs.

I take it such a person would say, "I do not drop my rightful claims; on the contrary, I shall press them unremittingly, not only for my own sake but for the sake of my weaker neighbors. But I do not purpose to resort to the arbitration of violence, in spite of provocation." But war is infinitely below the level of private fighting. Once in a war, a people can neither fight as it would nor stop fighting when it would. It is caught in the hideous sequence of reprisals. It tears to pieces the costly fabric of international understanding. War is an intolerable anachronism.

To meet the present situation as a body of modern men might meet it is to set a new standard of national behavior and to vindicate the possibilities of democracy.

EMILY GREENE BALCH.

FOR VALIANT HEARTS.

For valiant hearts we pray, that when we hear
The tumult of the battle coming near,
The panic where men strike, they know not why,
The rout where men are driven forth to die
We may not join the serried ranks of fear.

To breast the current in its mad career
Of terror at the stranger, turn deaf ear
To sacred words,—will be adventure high
For valiant hearts!

To cast aside the weight of battle gear
To dare to stand alone with dauntless cheer,
To pass the old forebodings calmly by,—
May we be first the uncharted course to try!
The world has longed too many a trembling year
For valiant hearts!

JESSIE WALLACE HUGHAN.
WHO WANTS PEACE?

TRAITOR TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, ALFY TO HUMANKIND.

London, Jan. 15.—Dr. Karl Liebknecht, member of Reichstag and Socialis Leader, has received an additional sentence of four and a half years at hard labor. Liebknecht's May-Day speech, 1916, delivered in a crowded Berlin square, urging the German people to demand peace of their government, was one of the finest blows ever struck for humanity. By the Military Tribunal he was adjudged guilty of military treason.

PEACE AN ISSUE IN CANADIAN POLITICS.

Ottawa, Ontario, Jan. 19.—One of the greatest political sensations in Canada for many a day was created by the campaign speech of Lucien Cannon in the Dorchester by-election. Cannon urges an end of war-sacrifices and states that Canada must not ruin herself further for England's benefit.

The mass-meeting adopted a resolution in which the women welcomed numerous peace demonstrations and urged the men and women of the hostile countries to "tell the world that they too, want peace."

"WHAT OF ENGLAND?"

On the authority of the Rev. Richard Roberts, pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, himself newly come from the centre of the extreme pacifist agitation in England, between four and five thousand "conscientious objectors" have been refused exemption, handed over to military authorities, and on steadfast refusal to bear arms or even put on khaki, have been subjected to brutal abuse and actual torture. Not a man in a hundred has yielded and public opinion has now stopped the most conspicuous cruelties.

The process of arrest, however, goes briskly on, and in an unending stream for equipping the rearing class of "infuriated men," nearly one thousand dollars was not to be wasted on trifling matters like this. Thrift, thrift, Horatio! Who are our foes? Need we fear more the citizens of Chicago and Paris, of Potsdam and Tokio, or the ignorance and poverty, haste and greed, which have established their fortifications among us?

There is something melodramatic, in coupling this vast expenditure for armament with this skilful policy toward the most constructive arm of the whole public service. It shows a disposition to accept the moving picture view of life, in which the plotting villain hatches a thousand far-fetched dangers to beset the hero; while in real life his dangers would be cigarettes, sedentary habits, laziness, extravagance, over-eating or perhaps the movies themselves. Meantime:

...in tragic life, God got, no villain need be; passions spin the plot; the foes... are all within. SARAH N. CLEGHORN.

TRUE ENEMIES FOR FALSE.

In Canada, a girl who secures the enlistment of ten young men receives a brooch like this from the authorities. In Canada, a young man whose intelligence and conscience forbids him to enlist, pays the penalty of the White Feather. It is of such conditions that the new courage is being born.

THE HEROES CONVALESCENT.

"Four of us boys were sitting in the smoking-room of the Convalescent Home where a soldier of a Montreal Battalion was telling how he and a pal picked up two women on the St. Lawrence Main. He boasted he was suffering the consequences. . . . We were interrupted by a fifth fellow who staggered over to us. His blood-shot eyes roved round the room to see if it was safe. Then he opened the bottle he drew from his pocket. "I left them drinking and went into the reading-room. I was not there twenty minutes when I heard cursing and fighting. Suddenly a crash...I rushed in just in time to see the boaster go down before a well-aimed kick from the eighty-year-old. "Afterwards I learned he was a tailor in a well-known bank; had worked his way up from junior clerk, intended to study for the ministry. All this before he went to fight for "King and Country.""

All in the midst of pouring out money in an unending stream for equipping the country with all possible implements for the destruction of life, Congress has haggled over the budget asked by the Children's Bureau. A hundred and eighty thousand dollars was not to be wasted on trifling matters like this. Thrift, thrift, Horatio! Who are our foes? Need we fear more the citizens of Chicago and Paris, of Potsdam and Tokio, or the ignorance and poverty, haste and greed, which have established their fortifications among us?

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SIX ALTERNATIVES TO WAR

AVOID HASTY ACTION.
1st. We can postpone until the war is over the settlement of any dispute which cannot now be settled by peaceful means.

KEEP OUT OF WAR-ZONE.
2nd. We can keep American citizens off belligerent ships.

NO DEALING IN CONTRABAND.
3rd. We can refuse clearance to ships of the United States and other neutral countries carrying contraband and passengers on the same ship.

PATRIOTS HAVE DUTIES AS WELL AS RIGHTS.
4th. We can withdraw protection from American citizens who are willing to jeopardize the nation's peace by traveling as seamen with contraband on American or neutral vessels.

RUN NO RISKS FOR THE NATION.
5th. We can, if necessary, keep all American vessels out of the danger zone for the present, just as the Mayor of a city keeps citizens in their homes when a mob is in possession of the street.

LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK.
6th. Congress, which has exclusive power to declare war, can submit the declaration to a referendum vote.

Even if an American ship is sunk with loss of American lives, we must not go to war. There is an immediate alternative. We, the greatest neutral nation, should call into conference all the neutrals whose rights are equally affected with our own and determine upon some joint method of maintaining and defending those joint rights. Acting in concert all the neutral nations may be able to determine upon some method of enforcing their rights without recourse to war.

IF YOU ARE WITH US, WIRE YOUR CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS TO FURTHER THESE PLANS AND KEEP US OUT OF WAR

FOUR LIGHTS has declared itself the mouth-piece of the young, uncompromising woman's movement for peace and humanity. This issue goes to press in troublous times, for over our country hangs a cloud of war so dense that only the light of the most daring internationalist vision will attempt to pierce it. Yet we who are responsible for this number affirm our belief not only that the people of this nation wish no war with Germany, but that it is the solemn duty of those who have our happiness and very lives in their hands to find a way out of this difficulty without resort to arms, even though at what some will inevitably call the sacrifice of national honor.

To our thinking, the dragooning of this country into war with any of the bleeding nations of Europe, however grave be the provocation, would be the true forfeit of our national pride, an intolerable insult to our humanity.

Risks in peace there may be; in war there are none; there are but fatal certitudes, — of untold physical agony, of misery piled Ossa on Pelion, and, no less to be endured, the shame of unworthy conduct.

No compromise with war, which is always and everlastingly indefensible! May America be true to her destiny, that she may keep forever her place in the sun, — the hope of the world.

JESSIE WALLACE HUGHAN
SARAH N. CLEGHORN
FANNIE M. WITHERSPOON
Editors of this Issue.

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