Four Lights

AN ADVENTURE IN INTERNATIONALISM

"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."

"Our government is based on the agreement both tacit and implied, that the minority shall always have the rights of free speech, of free press, and of free agitation, in order to convert itself if possible from a minority into a majority. As soon as these rights of the minority are denied, it will inevitably resort to secret meetings, conspiracies and finally force. In times of stress, it may be extremely embarrassing for the majority to be hampered in quick, decisive action by an obstinate minority; but nevertheless the recognition of the right of the minority is our sole bond of unity.

"For this reason, I repeat that any attempt to interfere with the rights of free speech and free press is a blow at the very foundations of our government."

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.
On the Espionage Bill.

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY.

The world objected to President Wilson's suggestion of Peace without Victory, but it does not object to entering its fourth year of War without Victory. Ten million men have been sacrificed. Every belligerent nation is bankrupt. Yet the best that we can say of the result is that Germany on land and England on the sea appear to have approached, not to have won, victory.

Moreover, experts tell us that under modern conditions of warfare, a decisive military victory is impossible. Wars in the past have been won largely through the element of surprise. The airplane has robbed modern war of this strategic ally. The war becomes thus a war of attrition while the veins of humanity are being bled white.

But the enemy to be overcome, we are told, is militarism, the foe to democracy, the friend of the old absolutism. Are we thus to offer wider surfaces for the tentacles of this ancient octopus? Can we not grasp the fact that while it might be (temporarily) better for Germany to win, or that it might be (transitorily) desirable for the Allies to win, it is unques-
A Mother to Her War-Time Baby.

Babe, little babe, that vainly pleads
At the starved, wan breast of thy mother,
What will the terrible years to come
Touch thy heart of that other
Who, over a blood-soaked border-line,
In just such a desolate home as thine,
Is a babe like thee
In his misery?
Will they place thy tiny, fluttering hands
Closely about a gun?
Will they tell thee tales of hideous things
His father's folk have done,
Till the dream in thine eyes shall blaze to hate,
And thy soft, warm lips red vengeance prate,
Roopless hell?
Dear child, let me shield thy new, white soul
From the last of a mad world's keeping;
Better to see thy troubled rest
Sink into endless sleeping
Now on my heart, than ever to know
That the man my son may some day grow
Still justified
Men's fraticide!

EDNA MEAD.

Words of Wisdom from Our Allies.

"It is no exaggeration to say that if this conflict goes on indefinitely, revolution and anarchy may well follow, and unless the collective common sense of mankind prevents it before the worst comes, great portions of the Continent of Europe will be little better than a wilderness, peopled by old men, women and children."

Lord Loreburn, in the House of Lords, Nov. 8th, 1915.

"We are told we are fighting for liberty and democracy against tyranny, but gradually we have seen the very system we underscore, whose existence we detest, instituted in our midst, and in setting out to destroy it in the enemy, we are creating it at home."

Mr. Arthur Balfour, in the House of Commons, Nov. 11th, 1915.

So Doth the Happy Patriot.

(Heard before Senate Finance Committee, May 12.)

Newspaper and Magazine Publishers: Gentlemen of the Committee, magazines have already been boosted far enough. The public will not pay more. We would have to pay this war tax ourselves. We wish to do "our bit," but some other way. We urge that magazines and newspapers be not taxed.

Druggists: As the bill is now drawn we will have to pay the tax ourselves; it cannot be passed on to the customer. Gentlemen, we insist that we are patriotic, but we recommend that this bill be changed to read, "to pay to consumers of one cent upon every twenty-five cent purchase."

Automobile Manufacturers: The automobile business of America cannot stand up under this additional 5% tax. Is it possible, gentlemen, that you do not realize that only a very few retail dealers in the country are paying expenses?

Apparel Manufacturers: And it is true also that the moving picture houses of the country are operating at a loss.

Advertisers, Coffee Roasters, Electric Railways Representatives, Insurance Companies, Piano, Jewelry, Patent Medicine Manufacturers, etc. (In effect): Gentlemen, we are patriots; we wish to do "our bit," but we want to be patriotic in our own way. We recommend that you tax someone else—not us.

Sporting Goods Manufacturers: Members of the Committee, we urge careful consideration of any additional tax on sporting goods.

JOY YOUNG.

With The Glamor Off.

(From Current Opinion, August, 1917.)

"Undoubtedly the days are hysterical beyond experience. Every kind of vice flourishes rampantly. War invariably breeds this season of physical excitement, and this war has been no exception. Men and women who led sober lives in 1914 have abandoned themselves in many cases to orgies which are incredible.

"Can we wonder that in Australia and Canada there is the most bitter feeling upon this question?

"And how do you treat them? You turn them into this cesspool of vice and stretch out no hand to save them. There is no city so absolutely vicious as London has been since the outbreak of the war. It is to London our sons go upon their errand to save the Empire."

MAX PEMBERTON

in the London Weekly Dispatch.

"War brings out strange surprises of high living and fine temper; but it still manages to drag about its ancient and traditional heritage of lust. It is dogged by this black shadow, as by a curse. Some­thing in it stirs bad blood here. We have never seen, in peace, such an England as we see today. It is an ugly revelation. And ahead lies the terror of disease such as war alone seems to provoke. No glamour can disguise these dark things."

CANON SCOTT HOLLAND

in the Commonwealth (England).

IF.

A Mother to her Daughter.

(After Rudyard Kipling.)

"You can feel that Might alone is Mighty—
You can call yourself a Christ disciple
If you can keep your tender woman's spirit
And dull the charge of murder on your soul,
If you can bear your conscience with a burden
And daily sit and dumbly roll and roll;
If you can sing "My Country first!" and never
Observe that lands melt freely into one;
If you can prove mankind is not united,
Led by one hope as by one rising sun;
If you can doubt that greed of State must perish,
And God, the King, One Sovereignty unfurled,
You'll be a "loyal patriot" my darling.
And which is more—a thing of stones, my girl.

FLORENCE GUERTIN TUTTLE.

Peace Terms Mentioned at Last.

"Senator Lewis: My judgment is, that now is a time when Germany will accept the offer of peace based upon the terms: first, the restoration of Belgium; second, the restoration of the possessions which she has held of France; third, the return of the countries of Serbia, Bulgaria, and Roumania to their previous status; in consideration for that the return to Germany by the allies of those particular parts of the German country which have been taken, to wit, her colonies in Africa.

"Senator King: We are at war, and the thing to talk about is not peace but war."

Congressional Record, June 23, 1917.
WOMAN'S WAY IN WAR.

(Reprinted from FOUR LIGHTS, Issue of June 2, 1917, which was refused transmission through the mails, June 6, 1917, under the Espionage Act of June 15, 1917.)

Women must not feel that they cannot help in the Great War because they are accustomed to dealing with little things. A bullet is a little thing but it is stronger than life. Women must not feel that because they work in the narrow confines of the home, they cannot help in the great work of destruction. It is a tender nursery thought that the baby in the mother's arms, properly trained, may grow up to destroy more persons and property than any man before him. And that this helpless floppy pink hand may some day write his mother's name in the blood of the enemy,—though of course it is too early to tell just yet which enemy it will then be.

Accustom your children gradually to the sight of blood. And for yourself learn to kill a little every day. One sweet woman is accustomed to ask herself searchingly each night, "Whom have I killed today?" And to fall asleep resolving to kill more on the morrow.

A woman clever with her fingers will soon be making gas masks at home. Women have often been accused of being essentially producers and conservers. Now is the time for them to lay forever that slander and prove that they are glad and eager to destroy joyfully all that the ages—and other women—have produced.

Two issues of FOUR LIGHTS have been refused the privilege of transmission through the United States Post-Office, presumably under the Espionage Act although the first issue to be suppressed met its fate nine days before the Bill became a law. In neither case were we notified by the Post-Office authorities and only the insistent complaints of subscribers made us realize what had happened.

We have had one other encounter with Federal authority. Last week an agent from the Department of Justice honored us with an extended visit.

First we thought he had come to persuade us to abandon our activities, for he took some pains to explain that permanent peace is a futile ideal since the human animal, especially the male human animal, is inherently pugnacious. "There will always be wars—it's human nature," he declared.

Later, he argued that we are wasting our time and might better be rolling bandages, growing potatoes, etc., inasmuch as "This is a war to end war—and when it's over and we have beaten Germany there will never be another war."

But it seems that this advice was just an incident of the Departmental visit, the real purpose of which was to inquire how many of our editors are Germans. Until proved innocent we were assumed to be guilty.

We have gladly compiled our varied biography and print it as a supplement herewith. But, as patriotic Americans, we cannot let this implication go by without a protest.

When an important Federal Department takes it for granted that all hatred of militarism, all longing for an international goodwill that will make future wars impossible, all conviction of the futility and horror of the present war, exist only in German hearts, is it not going out of its way to render the well-known Aid and Comfort to the Enemy?

As children of people who lived and died for Liberty we resent the assumption that no outspoken lovers of Liberty and Peace are to be found among "free-born Americans."

MARY ALDEN HOPKINS.

THE EDITORS.

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Margaret Lane, Managing Editor.

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