AN ADVENTURE IN INTERNATIONALISM

March 10, 1917

To George Washington and Patrick Henry: Greetings! We dedicate this number of Four Lights to you because you had the courage to embark on an untried enterprise. And by your leave, gentlemen, we will hang your portraits in our cabin as we set out to “do our bit” toward welding the nations into the United States of the World.

THE A B C OF INTERNATIONALISM.

International A cademy of the Universal Language.
International A mateur Athletic Federation.
International A nti-Tuberculosis Association.
International Association against Unemployment.
International Association for Labor Legislation.
International Association for obtaining the Decimal System of Measures, Weights and Coins.
International Association for Promoting the Study of Quaternions and Allied Systems of Mathematics.
International Association for Testing Materials.
International Association for the Advancement of Science, Arts and Education.
International Association for the Prevention of Smoke.
International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property.
International Association of Casualty and Surety Underwriters.
International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.
International Association of Car Accountants.
International Association of Car Workers.
International Association of Chiefs of Police.
International Association of Dairy and Milk Inspectors.
International Association of Factory Inspectors.
International Association of Fire Engineers.
International Association of Machinists.
International Association of Marine Underwriters.
International Association of Road Congresses.
International B asedball Association.
International Bible Students Association.
International Bibliographical Institute.
International Bricklayers’ Union of North America.
International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers.
International Brotherhood of Boiler-makers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers.
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
International Brotherhood of Paper-makers.
International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen.
International Brotherhood of Steam-shovel and Dredge Men.
International Buddhist Society.
International Building Trades Council.
International Bureau of Federations of Teachers.
International C hamber of Agriculture.
International Children’s School Farm League.
International Commission on the Control of Bovine Tuberculosis.
International Commission on the Cost of Living.
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.
International Committee for the Protection of the Interests of European Oil Seed Crushers.
International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace.
International Committee on Electrical Units and Standards.
International Cooperative Alliance.
International Council for the Study of the Sea.
International Council of Women.

(For the rest of the alphabet see Catalogue of the Congressional Library.)
Not Pro-Germany but Pro-Justice
Two points which have escaped the head-line makers.

Is it by accident or intention that the order of the British Admiralty of November 2, 1914, is omitted from what purports to be a complete compilation made by the State Department of all the chief documents issued by the European belligerents regarding neutral rights and commerce? This order reads:

"(The British Admiralty) therefore gives notice that the whole of the North Sea must be considered a military area. Within this area, merchant shipping of all kinds, traders of all countries, fishing vessels and other vessels will be expected to the greatest danger from mines it has been necessary to lay and from warships searching vigilantly by day and night for suspicious craft.

All merchant and fishing vessels of every description are hereby warned of the dangers they encounter by sailing in this area, and also not to attempt to retrieve the same in any contrary direction. All effort will be made to convey this warning to neutral countries and to vessels on the sea, but from November 2 onwards, the Admiralty announces that all such vessels must draw from the northern point of the Hebrides through the Faeroe Islands to Iceland so as to avoid any peril.

Since Germany began the Atlantic submarine blockade on February 1, England has enlarged and intensified this mined area in the North Sea, making the blockade absolute, except for a narrow safety lane provided for passenger ships.

But no official protest has gone from the United States on account of this British curtailment of our freedom of the seas.

II

Is it a mere happening that our government and the country at large has paid almost no attention to the fact that on February 1, the German ambassador was authorized by his government to arrange for the passage of any American passenger ships, without one man of war in the truant, through the safety lane to Falmouth, which had previously been prescribed for one American passenger ship per week?

Count von Bernstorff had no time to carry out this concession for he was given his passports the very next day. But had he been left to execute his government's instructions, the problem of the United States in protecting the lives and property of its citizens at sea would then have been practically identical with regard to both England and Germany.

Both countries had told us that if we entered a restricted area we did it at our peril. Both countries had offered a safety lane for passenger ships.

The only differences were: England had warned us that our ships might strike mines (and so be sunk), while Germany warned us that our ships might be struck by torpedoes shot from submarines (and so be sunk). In either case both lives and property would be destroyed. England had taken her stand quietly, without melodrama, and with a general reputation for peace and fair play, while Germany had made its declaration with shocking loudness on top of an indispensable campaign of ruthlessness that has left her without apologists among the nations. England had made no specific promise of good behavior (to the United States, therefore it had none to break, while Germany had, in her answer to the Bussesse note, committed herself to the observance of the so-called humanitarian methods of ocean warfare. This made her later use of the loophole all the more embarrassing and a marked departure from principle.

Are not these differences largely of manner rather than of matter?

The Freedom of the Seas
A Meaning That May Be Underneath President Wilson's Address to the Senate, January 22nd.

It is already the firm belief of certain perceiving fundamental democrats that the careful phraseology chosen by the President is a reasonable indication that he means nothing short of international free trade, when he gives what he believes to be the only stable basis for peace among the nations.

Note the particular language all the way through the speech. "If peace is to endure, it must be... made secure by the organized major force of mankind."

If he organized major force he had meant merely navies, would he have said major force? Would he have said mankind? All his books and speeches indicate that he considers the major force of mankind, the passion for liberty.

Again he says "not organized rivalries, but an organized common peace." Can a better definition for protective tariffs be found than "organized rivalries"? In claiming "equality of rights" as the only possible equality of nations, he says, "the guarantees exchanged must neither recognize nor imply a difference between big nations and small... Equality of territory or of resources there of course can not be, nor any other sort of equality not gained in the ordinary peaceful and legitimate development of the peoples themselves."

He does not add, "i.e., free trade." But perhaps he will in the next great pronouncement of principles. However, in the very next sentence he says, "Maintained is looking now for freedom of life,-not for equips of power."

Then he discusses the "freedom of the seas." Just now we are thinking of that subject in most literal terms,—as actual fighting blockade to our commerce. But the President must have in mind something more than the solution of present day blockade problems, when he uses these words, "No doubt a somewhat radical reconsideration of the rules of international practice hitherto thought to be established may be necessary in order to make the seas indeed free and common in practically all circumstances for the use of mankind, but the motive for such changes is convincing and compelling. There can be no trust or intimacy between the peoples of the world without them, and they need not be difficult either to define or to secure the freedom of the seas, if the governments of the world sincerely desire to come to an agreement concerning it."

When some day he comes to making an address on free trade, can he use for it a better introduction than these very words?

You say that you are descended from three signers of the Declaration of Independence.

That you had six ancestors in the American Revolution.

That one of them was officer in Washington's bodyguard.

And you write on the stationery of the Nathan Hale Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

But that doesn't worry us any, for we know that if you had lived in 1793

You wouldn't have known that Washington was a patriot.

You would have been one of those 10,000 men who throve the streets of Philadelphia to drag him from his house because he ignored his oath with France

And wouldn't fight England.

You would have been in the public square when "loyal American citizens" burned an effigy of his pacifist Secretary of State,

GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH—Patrick Henry

John Jay, "the traitor," who wrote notes while our commerce was being swept from the seas.

You would have cut out of the public press Tom Paine's Open Letter to the President, and pasted it on a post-card and mailed it to George Washington yourself.

Undercooking in red ink, "the world will be puzzled to decide whether you are an apostate or an imposter."

"Whether you have abandoned good principles or whether you ever had any."

And you would have added a scrawl of your own like this: "Those of your ilk may be classed with Benedict Arnold and Judas Iscariot." Yes, those should have been hard days for you, Mr. "Loyal American Citizens."

For you would have been a thwarted Jacobin then, just as you are a thwarted Jingoes now.
FOUR LIGHTS is pledged to the task of adding a glimmer along the path that leads to Internationalism—an internationalism which will presently include the political policies of the world as it has already begun to include the business, educational and social interests of the nations.

The United States of the World is just as comprehensible a conception as the United States of America.

FOUR LIGHTS] believes war to be the stupidest of all old fashioned illusions, and it has shed once for all the worn out notion that progress or honor can be secured or preserved thereby.

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PREPARING FOR PEACE and PREPARING FOR WAR.

"The American Federation of Labor has embarked upon a movement to band the working men of the western hemisphere into a pan-American federation to resist in their respective countries a dominance of militarism such as has sprung up in Germany and certain other European nations under imperialistic policies.... Indorsement of the project has been obtained from all of the Latin-American countries.

"The proposed federation will have as its nucleus the 3,000,000 organized laborers of the United States and the more than 1,000,000 enrolled in the federations of the Latin-American countries.... This move is the first step toward a world federation of labor that would embrace all nations and strive for common aims."

"The Idaho legislature has again taken up consideration of the alien land law against which the State department protested a few weeks ago."

"Dr. T. Iyenaga, regarded by many as the semi-official spokesman for the Japanese government, said in reference to the proposed alien land law of Oregon, that the Japanese rulers would have difficulty in restraining the people from a clash with America if discriminations continued against the Japanese in this country. He offered as the first task for the proposed World Court an adjudication of what he saw fit to call unfair treatment of his fellow nationals on the Pacific coast."