

[Essay fragment, Elihu Burritt, undated]

America & England and the Future Peace of the World

[first page? in original]

[crossed out words] There are those present before me who will see the first morning sun of the twentieth century. Some of the youngest of [crossed out words] may [crossed out words] live to walk the distance of 15 or twenty years [indecipherable] [crossed out words] into that second millennial—to walk with its rising generation, [crossed out word] to talk with the prospective [crossed out word] fathers of [crossed out words] men and women who shall see the dawn of the 21st century. They will tell these children and heirs of that distant future of the hopes and experiences of these closing decades; [crossed out words] they will link to theirs the chains of living memories reaching far back beyond this Present into the early years of our Century. They will recount the history of its great struggle with the barbarous [indecipherable] of our older antiquity, of [crossed out words] decisive battles and its great victories for [crossed out word] freedom, civilization, science[?] & Christianity. They will dwell with ghastly reminiscence upon the crowning glory and power of this our age—[crossed out words] the development of Christianity ultimately[?] into the mightiest force in human society. They will speak of its [crossed out word] industrial organizations, of [crossed out word] the beautiful marching of its good will and good works to [indecipherable]; of the minute and wonderful decisions[?] of its labor of love, so that every form of suffering and sorrow, [crossed out word] every type of ignorance and vice, every shade and every region of moral darkness had assigned to it a busy, hoping, praying association of men & women working for its enlightenment and amelioration. [Crossed out word] The patrimony which this century will bequeath to the next, will be [indecipherable] more than that inherited from the last thousand years. What a world of wealth shall we hand over to that [crossed out word] [indecipherable] posterity; wealth [indecipherable] as it were written this mark[?] of our own [indecipherable]; not only all the available treasures of all preceding ages, but ten times more, the vast and varied contributions of our own. The mighty and multitudinous marvels of steam and electricity, the lightening [sic] winged [indecipherable] of [crossed out word] knowledge, running where the lightnings [sic] of Heaven never ran before, through the dark still depths of the sea. [Crossed out words] the great forces of nature and all the long hidden resources of science [crossed out words] working for human comfort and

every distress [?] in which a wish was [indecipherable] or a want be felt. Indeed, looking over all the achievements of which Civilizations and science, the mechanical and [indecipherable] art have much written [crossed out word] the space of our own memory[?] and which we shall [crossed out word] hand over to the first generation of the next century, and may well wonder what there will left for them to want or to invent, [crossed out word]

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of the two countries, leaving[?] [indecipherable] factories[?] and planted[?] vanguard [crossed out words] for a profitable exchange of their production, would [crossed out word] be likely to ask for still greater freedom and [indecipherable] for their trade. Thus [crossed out words] the best human authority in the world, as well as the [crossed out words] [indecipherable] dictates[?] of [indecipherable] sense [crossed out words] makes it clear and evident that a war between England and France [crossed out words] is more unlikely now than at any prior of their past history, and the danger of a hostile collision [crossed out word] must and will grow continuously and beautifully less for generations to come. [Crossed out words] This condition and prospect need not be predicated upon [crossed out word] the recent commercial treaty alone. Not at all. That treaty is merely, [crossed out word] if one may so say, the incidental or legitimate outcropping of preceding relations between these two countries; of these intimate copartnerships [sic] in which they have marched arm in arm as it were through the [indecipherable] walks of the [indecipherable], and into the heart of China, not for their own joint interest, prestige and power but as they are proud to claim, for the [indecipherable] interest of [indecipherable]. This action alliance seems to be strengthening into a habit, into a [indecipherable] and national sentiment in both countries. It is producing some joint enterprise, [crossed out word] avowedly for the good of the [crossed out word] whole world almost every year. Indeed, [crossed out word] looking to the expansion of the past few years, an[?] outside observer[?] might be justified in the [indecipherable] that this habit of copartnership between England [and] France [crossed out words] may become a kind of second nation to the two nations; so that in all the great enterprises events and policies that hereafter are to affect the foundation of Christendom, they will fall into the same lines [?] and act jointly by a spontaneous impulse. Now certainly this is a wonderful departure from the remoter [?] antecedents of the two countries. And all these changes in their mutual relations have taken place [indecipherable] the last ten year. They are the hopeful

[indecipherable] of the last half of our century [crossed out word] and installments[?] of the good [indecipherable]. If these new relations and dispositions do not make for peace, mutual confidence and increasing amity between these two nations then there is no[?] truth in the language of human actions. The history of what England and France have done in antagonism is [crossed out word] quite familiar to the outside world. The children of coming generations will read its awful passages in their school books. The record of the wars they have waged, and produced[?], is [crossed out words] for a long distance, in the history of

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Christendom is like the wide and winding Rhine compared with the [indecipherable] that ran by its side on into its channel[?]. The history of what they have done in copartnership has [crossed out words] filled only one grand opening chapter. the world has read it with wonder and admiration, as the introduction to more illustrious annals of international amity in the years that are to come. There was a time when Paganism and Christianity stood[?] in [indecipherable] in the Roman Empire. Which balance would [crossed out words] [indecipherable] apparently [indecipherable] for a considerable [indecipherable]. For a while the great destiny of the race seemed to hang suspended on the pivot of the scales [crossed out words]. When Paganism kicked the beam, a new [underline in original] cycle [crossed out words] was opened in the eyes of humanity. The special [indecipherable] of all the dark & cruel barbarisms of a heathen past was severed and they [indecipherable] written their life[?] [crossed out word] away their worshipping [and] victory. I would not apply an [indecipherable] to [indecipherable] [crossed out words] [indecipherable] event. But considering the [crossed out words] past history, and the relative position and power of England & France, this [crossed out words] balancing [and] turning of the scales [crossed out words] in form[?] of [crossed out words] mutual habitual cooperation, [indecipherable] and amity, might be and should be to the civilized world next in [crossed out words] in value to the [indecipherable] of Christianity over Paganism [crossed out words]. I say it might be and should be. But it will be [crossed out words] I fear, a barren victory for civilization, if the governments and people of the two countries do not put their hands & hearts to the work of removing that stupendous incongruity that bars the glorious path of this new career[?] [concern?]. I mean that [crossed out words] system of [crossed out words] [indecipherable] against each other, [crossed out words] and [indecipherable] force of military

and naval armaments increasing in the same nation with their friendly relations and professions. Why build ship after ship; if in this [crossed out words] [indecipherable] competition, if when built, [indecipherable] to [crossed out words] resist each other [crossed out words] they are to walk together across the sea with good [indecipherable] [indecipherable] in good [indecipherable] in some joint [crossed out word] expedition? The outside world has a deep interest in the termination of this animosity; for it is fast invading other nations in constantly increasing apprehension, expenditure and danger. Especially is this the inevitable [indecipherable] and result of the [crossed out word] rivalry in naval armaments [?] between England and France. Great Britain has doubtless a greater naval force [text ends in original]