

[Elihu Burritt, Essay Fragment, undated]

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to [indecipherable] their tastes, to prostitute the acquisition of Knowledge, to [indecipherable] their comfort and happiness in any way. [crossed out in original] But great as shall be the legacy of these achievements of science, it will be surpassed immeasurably by the moral inheritance we shall put in their possession. The great battle of public opinion will have been fought and won for them. History which leaves [indecipherable] Christendom for generations will have been settled; Customs and systems which once victimized [?] millions will have given way [crossed out word] before the enlightened convictions and benevolent labors of a Christian age. Slavery we may believe will leave [crossed out words] [indecipherable] with [crossed out word] its scourge [?] and fetters [?] from [crossed out word] its last hiding place[?] in the civilized world. Interdependence, [crossed out words] its twin sister will have [crossed out words] will [indecipherable] after the [indecipherable] future. Ignorance and superstition will leave but their hold upon the poorest populations of Christendom, and the masses of the people everywhere will have [crossed out word] accrued a bond [?, level?] they never before [indecipherable]. Golden and glorious future! how[sic] beautiful and serene it looks, as seen through the setting sunlight of [indecipherable] years! How happy will be the lot of its first generations! How all the great and busy and beautiful minds of our age are working to enhance these happenings and [indecipherable] this progress! One might believe that [crossed out words] all the faculties of human science, and all the [indecipherable] and [crossed out word] of Christian [indecipherable], were stimulated to sleepless activity to sweep and garnish a better world for them than we have inhabited; [crossed out word] a world into which the holiest Moses of our day may only look [crossed out in original] look into from a distance, as the Hebrew leader looked from the far mountain top into the land of tomorrow, whose milk and honey he might not taste. In that good time coming – coming so near that we can almost hear the footsteps of its first years—we hope our labors [crossed out in original] we have faith—[crossed out in original] the wish and the faith to believe, the great evils with which we [crossed out words] are grappling will be [unknown?], that [Crossed out in original] we shall vanquish them before the clock of century strikes twenty,

that the first [crossed out words] day's sun of that future shall not rise on a [indecipherable] nor set on a slave.

Looking at the spontaneous impulses of the public mind of Christendom at all the tendencies, dispositions and [crossed out words] aspirations have been...

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developed in the last ten years one would think that this ~~future~~ [crossed out in original] new future we all could [indecipherable] might verge closely upon the Millennium [indecipherable] scripture; that the great communists [?] of Europe and America at least by that time, might attain to [crossed out word] the first stage of [crossed out words] that place, good will and brotherhood which are to make one of the blessed conditions of the Millennium. Except in one [crossed out word] single direction all the great enterprises and activities of our day have worked to this end. Commerce has been released from the restrictions that weighed its white wings to the earth, and it is working as it never did before to [crossed out words] to [indecipherable] sea-divided nations in a living [indecipherable] of mutual interests. [crossed out words] [indecipherable] electric telegraphs [indecipherable] [crossed out words] have [indecipherable] until [indecipherable] are [crossed out words] [indecipherable] with the [crossed out words] a network of [beings] [indecipherable] with this intelligence from people to people. Populations of different language are brought into intense sympathy by which each others [crossed out words] [indecipherable] [crossed out words] [indecipherable] undertaking [crossed out words] are set on foot and [purpose?] to [crossed out words] foster this noble sentiment and to make the nations feel [that their?] oneness of interest. The Great Industrial Exhibitions of Art and Industry all [crossed out word] [indecipherable] New [indecipherable] some object. These Crystal Palaces, with [crossed out word] their [indecipherable] glory and grandeur are the [indecipherable] temples [crossed out words] in which nations [indecipherable] with each other and celebrate the [indecipherable] if not the advent of peace. In addition to all these instrumentalities [?]and [indecipherable], we see the two most powerful nations in the world, who have filled centuries of their history with the words of bloody wars now walking in hand in hand in close copartnership, and bound to each other by [crossed out word] new economical [?] ties, [crossed out words] which must draw them more and more closely together in all [indecipherable] time.

Now these are the very conditions on which statesmen and [indecipherable] have [crossed out words] predicted the perpetual peace of nations. These are the convictions which the inspired

prophecies of Holy [indecipherable] seem to describe as if preliminary to ~~that~~ the realization for their [indecipherable] predictions for humanity in the coming age of the [race?]. But side by side with these conditions [crossed out words], there stands a stupendous incongruity that darkens their [indecipherable], [or?] [indecipherable] this inspires [?].

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this [crossed out word] one great antagonism anomaly is the present war-system of Christendom, or what is sometimes called the Armed-Peace-Policy. All other [crossed out word] habits and institutions of a barbarous age [crossed out word] are melting away before this sun of [crossed out words] Christian civilization, under which we live. [Crossed out words] [Indecipherable] like an island of ice in a sea of fire is melting away, even [crossed out words] beyond the boundings of Christendom. Serfdom[?] has dissolved before the rays of that rising sun. Other [crossed out words] systems that have [crossed out words] darken the history of that past, are disappearing. But here stands [crossed out words] this war-system turning over Christendom [crossed out word] and attitude, and [crossed out word] [indecipherable] year by year to a [indecipherable indecipherable indecipherable] to [crossed out word] uproot and crush the commonwealth of Christian nations. The tides of public opinion that have slowly undermined and carried away other [crossed out words] structures of pagan antiquity, seemingly have not [indecipherable] a stone in this tremendous edifice. ~~It would [indecipherable] seem as if [indecipherable indecipherable]~~ all the [indecipherable] barbarians ~~of the world [indecipherable indecipherable]~~ gave their [indecipherable] to the [indecipherable] great red [indecipherable] before they fled [indecipherable] by the moral [indecipherable] of [indecipherable]. [crossed out in original] had given their power to that beast, each breathing into its being its own vicious vitality, and perpetuating in its action an inference[?] its own bad characteristics.

This then, is the great overarching anomaly of our age. I am confident it is so regarded not only by the hopeful and active men who have labored so long to [crossed out word] overthrow other evil institutions and customs, but [crossed out words] that the foremost statesmen of Christendom are conscious of its dangerous incongruity with the spirit of the times and with the [crossed out word] safety and prosperity of nations. The most liberal and enlightened governments feel doubtless that they are drifting deeper and deeper into these tremendous expenditures for war armaments, and none of them as yet see where or when the fatal tide [crossed out word] of influences, that is [indecipherable] these toward a [indecipherable]

indecipherable] will change. Let no one say or believe that the friends of peace proper [?] are the only persons or that they are one of a thousand, compared with the millions whom the armed-peace policy has astounded. It has [crossed out word] disappointed the expectations and predictions of the first men whom the whole

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widespread world has venerated for their political, experience, wisdom and virtue. Just in proportion as the commerce between nations shall increase, will the danger of wars between these be diminished was an axiom worthy of Sir Robert Peel in the [crossed out word] concluding days of the great struggle for free trade in [indecipherable]. Surely that proposition is so strongly presented in common sense that one might call it a [crossed out word] truism, [sic] pure & simple, and as soon think of disputing that two and two make four, as of denying its correctness and propriety. [crossed out words] Unfettered commerce; let it have free course by sea and land, let us ~~work~~-[crossed out in original] war-[indecipherable] or war [indecipherable] power where [crossed out word] its white-winged courses[?], and it will [indecipherable] the nations together in a web of brotherhood the sword can never sunder. That was the language of statesmen put in figurative [underlined in original] philosophy. The nations that won't trade with each other are those most likely to come to blows. Well, did commerce since the world began, ever have such a decade for its expansion as during the last ten years? What a glorious triangle it has won over the long [indecipherable] parts of France, bringing two great nations [crossed out word] which had [crossed out word] [thus?] lived for centuries side by side with closed doors against each others production, into the infinite partnerships of friendly trade! We will not ask [crossed out words] Addison, Hadston, or Bright what is his opinion of the inevitable tendency and uses of the new commercial bond, but ask any British Statesman, of any political connection, & if Sir Robert Peel's [crossed out words] axiom ~~were~~-[crossed out in original] will not hold good in this case, and that [crossed out words] relation to [crossed out words] the danger of [one?] war between France [and] England [crossed out words] will be diminished just in proportion as this recent treaty will extend the commerce between the two countries? We might go further, and ask of the most serious, [crossed out word] determined and intellectual opponent of free trade, if he thinks it possible that a time will come when the [crossed out word] people of these two great industrial countries, having for a long period [indecipherable] all the mutual and equal benefits of ~~unrestrained~~-[crossed out in original] unfettered commerce with each other, will ask or wish to

return to the old [indecipherable] regime? It is very doubtful if an honest minded man of intelligence in these realms [crossed out words] would [indecipherable] to take [crossed out words] this position, or even to deny that the industrial population

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