

THE HIGHER DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The early population of the United States was largely English, with some French, Dutch and Spanish additions. Then the Germans and Irish came and helped fight our battles and create ^{our} prosperity, and last arrived the Italians and the Slavs, and now the United States is neither Anglo-Saxon nor German or Irish or Latin - Slav, but is forming a new mixed race, and every one of the great warring nations of Europe has millions of its descendants amongst our citizens. While in time the blood relationship between American citizens and Europeans may become more remote, the relations by friendship and business will become closer with all European nations.

We should be and are on friendly terms with all the nations of Europe, which have contributed to our citizenship, and are now fighting each other. This imposes on all our citizens the duty of true neutrality, as well pointed out by our President in his original neutrality proclamation. We must realize that any offensive action or expression against any of the warring European nations must be offensive to millions of our own citizens, and we certainly owe some consideration to our fellow citizen, amongst whom we find some of our best and most prominent Americans: a man may well

sympathize with England, or with Germany or France or Austria in this war, and still be a good American Citizen. Talk of hyphenated citizens, more German or Irish than American, insinuations that American business has sold and betrayed the country to England, etc., are utterly unjustified, and to be condemned most severely as unfair, un-American and seditious by leading to discord between our citizens.

This war offers America the opportunity, either to raise humanity to a higher standard, or to drop it to the lowest level of selfishness. If we really mean what we preach, that we are for peace and fair dealing between the nations, ours is the power to quickly stop the present war, and to make future wars very difficult and soon impossible, by outlawing war.

We have no power to fight: our army is smaller than many a day's loss of men in the present war.

Our most powerful ships are not fast enough to catch an inferior force, and are too slow to escape from a superior one.

But we are the richest nation in the world: our estimated wealth is nearly twice that of England or of Germany.

This gives us a tremendous power for good, if we desire to use it. But we have all the excuse we can wish, in international law or absence of law, if we wish to escape our moral duty.

We are at peace with all nations, are closely related with all; we have no conflicting interests, need to fear no aggressor or invasion from any nation, nor shall we ever be the aggressors. We therefore have the chance, and ours thus is the duty, jointly with all the other American nations, to teach the world a higher morality, to abolish war. Let us take the stand by our actions, that we are utterly opposed to war as means to settle controversies, and refuse to assist in any manner any nation which resorts to violence, that is, goes to war, on whatever pretext it may be; place an absolute embargo on all the exports to such nation or nations, whether ammunition, food or machinery; refuse to loan any money to such nations, and the present war will quickly end, and there will not be many wars after it - if any.

If we do this, if we thus outlaw war by boycotting any nation which goes to war, then we can go before the nations of the world with clean hands and offer our services as mediators and arbitrators in their controversies, and then we will be listened to, while now we are in danger to earn *the* hostility of those friendly nations, which our actions hurt, and the contempt of the nation, which we help for financial gain, and are dis-organizing our industrial system, sowing discord between our citizens, and will have to pay ^{for} it in the future.

Are we ready to ^{practice} own the principles which we profess, for the good of mankind, for the establishment of true Christianity, that is, good will between men? Or are our professions of Christianity, of disapproval of war and slaughter, merely hypocritical self conceit?

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