

public. It is to be regretted, however, that in the lands south of us where the Christian Protestant religion is almost nowhere given its full rights, the people have been far from following the example of that free institution which is our greatest blessing—the institution of religious liberty.

Now there is every reason to hope that after a complete investigation and intelligent discussion of these difficulties we shall not be long without a remedy for some of them, if not for all.

But last in consideration, though first in importance to the general welfare of these nations, are the discussion and recommendation for adoption to their respective governments, of some plan of arbitration for the settlement of disputes and difficulties which may arise between them, in order that such disagreements may be peacefully settled and wars prevented. This would be the most valuable in every sense. The tax of war is the heaviest burden that has ever been borne by any nation in the past. If the congress should once for all put an end to war among the nations of America, it would be a magnificent advance along the line of human progress.

It is impossible yet to say what will be the outcome of this congress. Of this much we may be sure. It will do a great amount of good by the simple meeting of representatives of so many nations in friendly converse in the house of their richest sister. The excursion over the country by the delegates is alone worth all the cost of the conference. It is a grand thing for sister nations to meet. No nation except our own would promote such an enterprise. No nation in Europe would do it even if they could, for the jealousy of kings does not permit peoples to meet. Whatever may be the results of this congress this much has come to pass: All Europe has watched it with mingled incredulity, suspicion, and apprehension. It marks the beginning of a better time for humanity. It is perhaps for the continent concerned, the setting up of an anvil on which the sword may some day be beaten into a plowshare.

D. M. TAYLOR.

A FAIRY TALE.

There's a tamarack tree on Nittany hill
As stately as one may see,
And let the weather be stormy or still,
'Tis all the same to the tree;
For it clings to the cliff with its horny roots,
And buffets the gale with its sinewy shoots,
And laughs at the ravage of wind and rain
In the vale below mid the corn and grain.

And they tell queer tales of the tamarack tree
On Nittany's beautiful brow;
They whispered them long ago to me,
And they utter them boldly now:

They say, would you think it, that each Halloween
The tree gives a party, and spirits in green
And spooks in yellow and russet and gray
Make the woods resound with their elfin play?

The garrulous grouse comes there to woo
The little Olympian bear;

And the dandy dong likewise to sue
For the hand of the raven fair.
And they dance on the limbs of the tamarack tree,
And all are happy as happy can be,
While the blue baboon with his flowery flute
Warbles soft strains from the land of Toot.

And the brisky bat comes ambling down
On the rays of the mulberry moon;
And the squamoid snake from the liquid lake
Flies up with the lovely loon.
And the mango bird with her robes of lace,
And ribbons, and ribbons around her face,
All flutter about on their wings of jet
To the music of banjo and castanet.

Not least among all these guests so fine
Is young Mr. Plesiosaurus,
With his own wee wife and his daughters nine,
All the way from the village of Taurus.
And they ogie the others as round they go
On the tamarack branches, now fast, now slow;
Yet nobody minds Mr. Plesiosaur
With his gimlet eye and his lantern jaw.

So all night long with dance and song
On the boughs of the tamarack tree,
These spirits delay till the breaking of day
Puts an end to their frolicsome glee.
Then the bat and the dong on the tips of their toes,
And the lunatic loon with the luminous nose
Lead the revellers forth from Nittany hill
And the echoes sleep and the graves are still.

E. F. D.

The new Baptist University of Chicago recently received a gift of \$1,000,000 from John D. Rockfeller in addition to the \$700,000 already contributed.