

and crippled for life. Look at a great naval battle, shorn of its halo of glory. See the powerful forces of nature man has learned to control, engaging in mortal combat; hundreds of human lives being crushed out almost in the twinkling of an eye as if life were but a plaything; millions of dollars worth of property being destroyed, and tell me, in these days of our boasted enlightenment and civilization, is it necessary that we sacrifice all this blood and treasure to the god of war?

Would that I could paint this awful being in his true colors. This monster who has but to breathe over a land and the lives and happiness of thousands of its people are blasted forever. Who issues his mandates, and the most sacred bonds are burst and hearts are broken. Who, even in times of peace, snatches the very bread from the mouths of the starving that his cohorts may be fed and strengthened. It is to his greed that Europe is sacrificing over one thousand millions of dollars every year while thousands of her poor peasantry must suffer for the very necessities of life.

Why need we, in these closing days of the nineteenth century, continue to make such enormous preparations for some mythical future conflict. Here in America we have as yet felt the burden comparatively little, but since we have entered the arena of the worlds' great powers and have become the possessors of foreign colonies, we must awaken to the same necessities that have prompted foreign nations to such vast expenditures, unless we can reach some international agreement which shall at least curb this breakneck competition among nations.

Statesmen are not blind to these facts. Eight years ago Lord Salisbury called the attention of some of the leading monarchs of Europe to the fact that, during the six years ending eighteen hundred eighty-eight, seven of the leading European powers expended no less than four billions, eight hundred seventy millions of dollars, or over eight hundred millions of dollars annually for military and naval purposes alone. And this sum, vast as it is, has been continually increasing since. The expenditures of Great Britain alone for these two purposes during the current year will reach almost one-fourth billion of dollars.

We Americans are surprising the world and ourselves by the wonderful growth of our commerce and manufactures. We are rapidly gaining a strong foothold in the very heart of some of the