

most blessed of all the century. Thoughtful Christian people all over the world can see a light breaking in the east and are hoping and praying that the early days of the twentieth century may see the sun of peace burst forth in all his glory.



FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF THE PRESS.

(Prize Junior Oration, by LEWIS E. YOUNG.)

ONE hundred eight years ago the first amendment was added to the United States Constitution declaring that Congress should not make a law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Our country was founded by men who were seeking a place where they could think, speak and live as they pleased. The framers of our Constitution were men who appreciated the benefits to be derived from free speech, and who believed that our government, in order to be truly democratic, must guarantee its citizens freedom to talk and write as well as the privilege of voting and holding office.

The people of to-day have in no wise lost the power of conversation which our forefathers possessed, and which has been so characteristic of Americans. The Yankee, the Hoosier, the Texan, and the Californian—the laborer, the mechanic, the farmer, the banker, the scholar, and the scientist have opinions of their own and want to tell them to others. Some one has said that, when in the best of moods, the Frenchman wants to dance, the German to sing, the Spaniard to gamble, the Englishman to eat, the Italian to boast, the Irishman to fight, and the American—to make a speech. Congress must surely have foreseen what great talkers we would be, for it provided for the emergencies which would so often have arisen if speech and the press had been restricted. Now, the right to utter and publish whatever a citizen may choose, and to be protected against legal censure and punishment, provided that he does not publish any slander or libel