

**WAR OR PEACE, A
PRESENT DUTY AND
A FUTURE HOPE**

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War or peace, a present duty and a future hope by Hiram M. Chittenden

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A FUTURE HOPE

BY

HIRAM M. CHITTENDEN

AUTHOR OF "THE AMERICAN FUR TRADE OF THE FAR WEST"
"YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, HISTORICAL
AND DESCRIPTIVE" ETC.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS short, but complete treatise, Chittenden's "War or Peace," is the best I have recently met with. Indeed, I cannot recall its equal.

No phase of the contest between these rivals is forgotten or evaded. The author goes to the root of every contention for or against, and renders a reasond and calm verdict in favor of peace.

There is no note of exaggeration. Both sides are fairly given and the thoughtful reader is led to the true conclusion thru logical argument.

I only note somewhat of an exception to this statement in his treatment of the Tariff. While it is undoutedly true that free exchange of commodities is for the interest of both seller and buyer, it should not be forgotten that Mill clearly points out that new undeveloppt countries may be potentially the source of cheapest supply and that a temporary protectiv tariff to

test this may be beneficial, indeed, necessary. Again, there may justly and wisely be collected needed revenue from the imported luxuries of the rich, tho never from the common necessities of life, such as the food of the masses.

Special attention should be given to the chapters upon "Mistaken Sanctions of War." One sentence (page 18) is noteworthy. The irrational basis of militarism . . . "War reverses the process of natural selection and, instead of producing the survival of the fittest, produces the survival of the most unfit."

Generals Grant and Sherman are praised (page 24) for doing their great work for meager pay. It should be noted that both of these great men, whom it was my privilege to know intimately, were not in the true sense soldiers; one was Professor in a University, the other was in the Tanning business. When the Rebellion broke out, both volunteered to preserv the Union. Grant is on record as having told the Duke of Cambridge, who offerd him a Military Review, that he "never wisht to look upon a

regiment of soldiers again." Sherman's verdict, comprized in nine letters, promises to make him immortal,—“ War is Hell.”

A sentence (page 27) contains this needed sermon. “ The common evil of the war method lies in resorting to force before the question of right is determind and upon the arbitrary initiative of one of the disputants, such use of force finds no sanction in the teachings of Christ.”

The enormous cost entaild thru war and the infinitely greater cost thru fear of war is strongly presented by our author. Appalling as this is, however, it cannot be compared with the *crime* of man killing man as an allowable means of settling international disputes in the Twentieth Century of the Christian era.

The Rationale of war, to which our author devotes many pages is a masterly performance. The heroism of war and hence the virtues of courage and patriotism developt thereby is among the last remaining claims of the defenders of war, especially strong in Naval and Military circles and this our author meets boldly and confutes.

In days gone by there was only one profession open for the gentleman, especially for the eldest sons of the aristocracy. They entered either the Army or Navy. In olden times men wore arms in self defense and expected attack. Hence the necessity for carrying arms. It was then

“Man to man and steel to steel

A chieftain's vengeance thou shalt feel.”

Here was heroism or courage after a sort, but in our day the safest occupation for men is found in the Army and Navy of English-speaking nations. Not one in a thousand of the Generals, Admirals, or Officers of men who enlist are ever likely to fire a hostile shot. They will live and die without ever being in battle, but, if they ever should be, firing from warships at enemies out of sight, or firing from behind cover at opposing troops out of sight does not impress one as specially heroic.

There is not a railway engineer, train man or workman among machinery, a digger of foundations, or a builder of structures who does not

incur risk of accident or death far beyond men in either Army or Navy. There is no moral courage in killing our fellow men, this virtue blooms only when men serve or save them. Scarcely a day passes either in Britain or America during which several heroes do not perform such service at the risk of their own lives. Such the true heroes of civilization. Those who maim or kill their fellows are the heroes of barbarism, and only do the work they are paid to do; the heroic moral sacrifice of the others is without reward.

I earnestly urge all those interested in this question of "War or Peace," the greatest question of our time, to study Mr. Chittenden's exhaustive treatment of the issue and as a lover of peace thank him for giving to the world an invaluable, because a fair and calm, discussion of the subject, which we may rest assured will not dawn until the civilised world banishes "the foulest fiend ever vomited forth from hell," and enjoys the inestimable boon of the reign of peace. Towards this blessed consummation, Mr.