

**THREE CENTURIES OF
TREATIES OF PEACE
AND THEIR TEACHING**

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Three centuries of treaties of peace and their teaching by Sir Walter George Frank Phillimore

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SIR WALTER GEORGE FRANK PHILLIMORE

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TO THE MEMORY OF GROTIUS

Mens provida
Dissentientis conditionibus
Foedis.

UNDER WHOSE PORTRAIT
MUCH OF THIS ESSAY HAS BEEN WRITTEN

PREFACE

A PREFACE is in the nature of an apology. My excuse for the introduction of this work to the public is to be found in the following considerations :

We are all looking forward to the future peace. We are longing for it.

At the same time we are conscious how difficult it will be to make peace, how specially difficult to make a sure and lasting peace, difficult, even supposing that every nation and its rulers sincerely and heartily desire it.

Never was there a war in which so many Nations were engaged. Never has there been a settlement of so many questions as this peace will have to settle. These will not be mere questions of taking so much territory from one State and transferring it to another. The creation and dissolution of States will come under discussion. An old State may have to be divided ; two old States may be thrown together. New States and Confederations may arise ; old States may be submerged and destroyed.

Nor will the task be ended when the establish-

ment and territories of the several States have been ascertained. The future peace will be a Congress of Vienna, a Hague Conference, and a Geneva Convention rolled into one. If it is to be of any value, it must not only settle the several nations of the world on a tranquil footing with a just consideration of their several claims; it must provide some securities against such another war. There must be some machinery for deterring States from embarking on war, providing other methods of determining differences, and throwing the weight of the civilised world into the scale against unlawful or wanton aggression.

And if war is to be, there must be some provisions more effectual than those we have at present, to prevent war from relapsing or degenerating into mere savagery or barbarism.

With these thoughts in my mind it occurred to me that an historical analysis of past Treaties of Peace would give some guidance for the future, that we should thereby acquire some explanation of the condition of Europe on the threshold of the present war, and see the position to which previous diplomatic settlements had brought us.

The direct origins of the present war are to be found in the Treaty which concluded the Franco-German War, in the Balkan settlement made by the Congress of Berlin, in the lasting unrest of Poland, and in the ambitions and military dominance of Germany.

None of these can be appreciated without reference to earlier times. The Franco-German