

### THE COST OF WAR.

Since the first-born son of earth struck down his brother in cold blood, the spirit of war has shown itself in all its horrors, sacrificing a large proportion of the wealth and the best blood of every age and people. We have only to take a cursory view of the most enlightened nations to see it still doing its bloody work on a scale of magnitude, if possible, surpassing all former periods. Millions of men are under arms. Nations are at variance with nations, while the genius of the world is employed in inventing and improving agencies of destruction.

Our country was at peace with all nations. Our ship of state seemed to be sailing with a fair breeze and beneath pleasant skies; but, lo! a small dark cloud appeared above the Southern horizon, becoming larger, darker, and more threatening as it approached, and finally bursting in terrible power over our devoted heads, devastating large sections, causing every family to mourn the absence of near and dear ones, and hundreds of thousands to drop a tear for their martyred fathers, brothers, sons and husbands.

It is difficult to convey a proper idea of the immensity of the sums which represent the cost of war. The figures seem inadequate.

The war preceding the treaty of Ryswick, 1697, cost \$130,000,000.

The Spanish war of 1704, settled for at Aix-la-Chapelle, cost \$570,000,000.

The treaty of Spanish succession cost \$311,000,000.

The treaty of Paris, in 1763, ended in a bloody struggle, costing \$500,000,000.

The war for American Independence cost England and our country \$1,000,000,000.

The Revolution of 1793 cost \$230,000,000.

The wars of the first Napoleon, from 1803 to 1815, cost the extraordinary amount of \$5,800,000,000.

The Crimean war cost the powers that took a part in it more than \$1,000,000,000.

The late war in India cost England \$40,000,000.

With the number of men now in the field, the war for the Union now costs upward of \$2,000,000 per day.

The disproportion between the cost of war and civil government is especially apparent in the case of Great Britain. Her expenditures in 1854, for wars past and prospective, were more than \$250,000,000, while all other expenses were about \$30,000,000. The number of her agricultural laborers, male and female, old and young, at that time, was somewhat over 1,000,000; the average wages per person about \$100 a-year. Thus all the men, women, and children who make Great Britain a garden of beauty and a land of wealth earn about \$100,000,000 per annum. What a difference between the cost of producing food for man and beast and the expense of slaughtering them! What a difference between the husbandry of the plow and that of the sword! In our country the disproportion is far greater; but there are better days coming—peace and prosperity will soon be ours.

The present war debts of all the states of Christendom from which we have official returns amount to \$12,000,000,000 (twelve billions of dollars!) It takes more than a passing thought to comprehend such an amount. What known measure of value can we apply to it? What shall we put in the opposite scale to ascertain its weight—the power with which it presses upon the civilized world? The present paid-in capital of all known banks amounts to \$1,000,000,000. Thus the war debt exceeds twelve times the capital of all the banks of the world. At \$20,000 a-mile, it would con-

struct 600,000 miles of railway, belting the earth twenty-four times. It would make a column of dollars 16,000 miles high. It would take half a million of teams to carry the silver, allowing a ton to each team, making a line of teams 1200 miles in length.

Such is the condition of the world resulting from war. When will the burden be less? When will the swords be beaten into plowshares and the spears into pruning-hooks, and the nations learn war no more?

Our war debt must be at the present time something over two thousand millions, and may yet exceed three billions. Even if it reaches that, it will not be too much to pay for the results attained. The triumph of freedom, liberty, and justice over falsehood, despotism, treason, and oppression, at so great a sacrifice, will be too highly prized to again be trifled with. It will secure us a peace that will be permanent. If we had succeeded with seventy-five thousand, or even with half a million of men, it would have been at so small a sacrifice that we soon would have settled back into the old state of affairs, leaving the control of the Government in the hands of those under whom conspiracy, treason, and rebellion would have free scope to foster a future outbreak from which there would be no recovery.

Wealth dishonestly obtained by an individual or a nation will not be lasting. From the establishment of our Republic we have succeeded, without a parallel, in acquiring immense wealth by trampling upon the God-given rights of the slave. The value of the exports alone of sugar, rice, and cotton, as a product of slave labor for the year 1860, amounted to \$222,000,000. If such are the figures for one year, what must be the whole amount since the slave system first

obtained a foothold upon the soil of Virginia? The blood of the oppressed has not cried from the ground these many years.

Will our ship of state outride the storm of rebellion, and triumphantly reach the haven of peace and prosperity? Glance at our immense resources, exceeding fourteen billions of dollars, and we have the response, Yes! Glance at our prospective resources in the rich farming lands of the West, earnestly inviting laborers to make them bud and blossom, and thus pour their wealth into the public treasury, and again we have the response, Yes! We shall recover. We are only in the morning of our glory. This nation has a future, and,

\* With freedom's soil beneath our feet,

And freedom's banner streaming o'er us,"

we shall advance with rapid strides toward that most glorious and sublime future.—  
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