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PEACE.

"For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:5-6.

He is rightly called the Prince of Peace. The angels sang at His birth, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." In Japan one year the American boys who could not get away to come home for Christmas decided to have a real Christmas in Japan. They got a tree, loaded it with gifts, decorated with Christmas snow and many colored lights, and invited some Japanese children to the party. The children came gladly, for they had been promised many gifts and food such as they had never tasted before. They had such a glorious time as no peer child in Japan had ever had before. They gawked at the tree, the lights, the fireworks in wonder, as if such things had been sent from heaven. Then one of the children asked a question that made every heart stand still. He cried, "Whose birth day is it?"

Whose birth day are we celebrating? It is none other than the Prince of Peace Himself. He came to end such wars as carry an American soldier half way around the world at this season. He came to end such wars as left thousands of American and Japanese children fatherless. He gave His life to usher in a day of everlasting peace. Did He die in vain?

In the August issue of Harper's was printed a copy of Elmer Davis' Phi Beta Kappa Oration at Harvard University Are We Worth Saving? And if So, Why? I am not calling attention to this article for the purpose of criticizing Elmer Davis, but because it is typical of the pessimistic attitude of our present day writers. I quote from the article:

"A century or so ago a Harvard graduate wrote a hymn whose opening lines, plausible enough when written, turned out to be one of the most inaccurate forecasts ever set down:

The morning light is breaking
The darkness disappears.

"The final couplet of that stanza, however would- with the omission of a single word- be a fairly accurate picture of the world today:

Each breeze that sweeps the ocean
Brings tidings from afar,
Of nations in commotion,
Prepared for Zion's war.

"Commotion indeed: but it is not for Zion's war for which they are preparing."

The songs we sang fifty years ago were inspired by a great hope and a great faith. They did not express joy over a state that was already attained. Men knew then that the road ahead had many a steep mountain and many a dark valley. They were expecting a complete triumph of good over evil, but they were expecting no easy one. If some misjudged the progress we had made against sin and error and thought the Kingdom of God was nearer than it was, it was only a human error. The Christian church has made the same error many times.

At the beginning of the twentieth century there were

some encouraging signs that Christianity and freedom would soon win over tyranny and oppression. Livingstone had made his way to the heart of the last dark and unknown continent; he had carried the lamp of life to darkest Africa! Many men and women with families then could not remember a great war. In America the old people told their children and grandchildren of the dark days of the Civil War. In Europe the older people told theirs of the dark days of the Franco-Prussian War. But these great struggles were in the dim, dim ages of the past. There was a hope rising in the hearts of men that enlightened people were too intelligent to fight bloody wars, but could settle all their disputes at the conference table. The Spanish-American War was over so quickly and ended with such a complete triumph of democracy over tyranny and oppression that men hoped the whole world would soon be free. The hope of freedom and the hope of Christianity were one and inseparable. Had the people of America and Europe looked a little more closely they would have seen the economic bondage that was threatening to overthrow their own liberty. They should have known that the economic chains of poverty can be as fatal to human liberty as the physical chains of slavery. Had they examined the fabric of civilization a little more closely they would have seen the rent that was already there.

Today the world is an armed camp. Most young men of America and Europe and Asia have seen service fighting for something they were told was right. We fought the first World War to make the world safe for democracy. When it ended democracy was still only a dream and hope for most men. We fought the Second World War in defense of our own

liberty, only after it was threatened, after we heard the clank of the chains that were being forged for us to wear. When it ended we found we had helped to build the mightiest foe to human liberty since Genghis Khan! Are we to surrender to tyranny and oppression because of these disappointments? If the choice were mine to make, to fight these two wars over or surrender to a tyrant like Hitler, I would choose to fight them again.

Elmer Davis says the opening lines of Smith's great hymn was "one of the most inaccurate forecasts ever set down."

The morning light is breaking,
The darkness disappears.

What is inaccurate in this forecast? Is the world a darker place today than when these lines were written? Is the light of truth dimmer today than when Smith wrote this great hymn? The fires of war have not destroyed the Christian faith. They have purified it from much of the sham and pretence that was then accepted for the genuine. In the last one hundred years we have seen more progress in science and education for the masses than the world saw in any thousand years of past history. Much of this progress has come out of the two mighty struggles we were engaged in. At the opening of this century, or a little later, America produced its first billion bushel corn crop. No one living then even dreamed we would one day produce a billion bushels of wheat. Now we are producing three billion bushels of corn and a billion bushels of wheat on almost the same land we produced the smaller crop. When these lines were written millions of men in the most enlightened lands were shackled to the looms, forges and foundries with fetters almost as cruel as slavery. Millions of poor blacks in the South were shackled in

an economic bondage as cruel almost as the physical bondage they had lately escaped from. Today these shackles are broken. Many of them were broken during the two last wars. More progress was made in medical science during the last two wars than had been made in any cantury of the past. When these lines were written Bubonic Plague, Yellow Fever, Small Pox, Diphtheria and Malaria were periodic scourges, taking^{away} millions of lives each year. Now all these dread diseases have been conquered or are on the way out. Education for the masses is provided in more than half the world today. If Elmer Davis had to go back and live in the days of Smuel F. Smith his eyes would quickly be opened.

The morning light is breaking

The darkness disappears.

Elmer Davis said, "the worst mistake the West ever made in dealing with the East. They educated the natives." Who educated the natives in the East? After more than a hundred years of heart breaking labors the missionaries have hardly dented the illiteracy of China and India. Many of the educated people of those lands would have been educated without the missionaries. Some of the ones the missionaries educated are today our best friends in the East. The only two nations in the East that have educated the masses are Russia and Japan. The missionaries did not educate the masses here; the governments of Russia and Japan did it. It was not done for religious purposes, but for economic and military objectives. Commerce has done far more to spread knowledge than missionaries have. If we had wanted to keep knowledge from these people, how could it have been done? Even if the people of Russia and Japan were indoctrinated instead of being educated, it is doubtful that there lot is any worse

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than it was. Illiteracy and darkness are the cruelest fetters any people ever wore. How could we proclaim freedom for all men and deny them the one thing that can make them free?

The great fear that Elmer Davis expresses is that we lose the right of free thinking and discussion. He fears that we will become so divided by bitter factions and hatred that we will lose our own liberty. "What makes Western civilization worth saving is the freedom of the mind, now under attack from the primitives--including some university graduates-- who have persisted among us." Of the all the fears he has named this is perhaps the most dangerous. Some of the politicians of our day are sowing^a a crop of dragon's teeth that could produce a bitter harvest.

What shall we say of the Christian hope that wars shall cease? Are we to wring our ^{hands} in despair because a fourth of the world is behind the iron curtain? The Christian religion has conquered mightier forces than this. Many people behind the iron curtain today were already in bondage. There are some who believe that liberty lost today is lost forever. On what grounds do they base such a belief? Is tyranny stronger today than in ages past? Do tyrants have tools today that they never had before? Then truth also has some new weapons. Truth is stronger today than it has ever been. It is the one thing that Communism fears. The iron curtain was erected to keep it out. Truth may be crushed to earth, as it has many times before, but it will rise again. Each time it rises it possesses a new strength it never possessed before. Truth is knocking on the iron curtain with blows that send a chill of fear into the heart of every tyrant on the other side. It will keep knocking till the curtain is rent from top bottom. Then truth will walk in!