

whole world is interested in preventing the recurrence of such a calamity.

The Only Solid Foundation.

'We are told that armaments must be reduced, that the baleful spirit of militarism must be quenched, that the peoples must everywhere be admitted to a fuller share in the control of foreign policy, that efforts must be made to establish a sort of League of Concord—some system of international relations and reciprocal peace alliances by which the weaker nations may be protected, and under which differences between nations may be adjusted by courts of arbitration and conciliation of wider scope than those that now exist.

'All these things are desirable. But no scheme for preventing future wars will have any chance of success unless it rests upon the assurance that the States which enter into it will loyally and steadfastly abide by it, and that each and all of them will join in coercing by their overwhelming united strength any State which may disregard the obligations it has undertaken.

'The faith of treaties is the only solid foundation on which a Temple of Peace can be built up.'

The State or Humanity.

Lord Bryce vigorously combats the German idea that the State is greater than Humanity.

'The most startling of Bernhardt's doctrines,' he says, 'are (1) the denial that there are any duties owed by the State to Humanity, except that of imposing its own superior civilisation upon as large a part of humanity as possible, and (2) the denial of the duty of observing treaties. Treaties are only so much paper.

'To modern German writers the State is a much more tremendous entity than it is to Englishmen or Americans. It is a supreme power with a sort of mystic sanctity, a power conceived of, as it were, self-created, a force altogether distinct from, and superior to, the persons who compose it.

'But a State is, after all, only so many individuals organised under a Government. It is no wiser, no more righteous, than the human beings of whom it consists, and whom it sets up to govern it.

Has the State No Morality?

'Has the State, then, no morality, no responsibility?'

'Is there no such thing as a common humanity? Are there no duties owed to it? Is there none of that "decent respect to the opinion of mankind" which the framers of the Declaration of Independence recognised; no sense that even the greatest States are amenable to the sentiment of the civilised world?

'The small States, whose absorption is now threatened, have been potent and useful—perhaps the most potent and useful—factors in the advance of civilisation. It is in them and by them that most of what is most precious in religion, in philosophy, in literature, in science, and in art has been produced.

'The first great thoughts that brought man into a true relation with God came from a tiny people, inhabiting a country smaller than Denmark. The religions of mighty Babylon and populous Egypt have vanished: the religion of Israel remains in its earlier as well as in that later form which has overspread the world.

'The Greeks were small people, not united in one great State, but scattered over coasts and among hills in petty city communities, each with its own life, slender in numbers, but eager, versatile, intense. They gave us the richest, the most varied, and the most stimulating of all literatures.

What We Owe to Small Peoples.

'In modern Europe what do we not owe to little Switzerland, lighting the torch of freedom 600 years ago, and keeping it alight through all the centuries when despotic monarchies held the rest of the European Continent? And what to free Holland, with her great men of learning and her painters surpassing those of all other countries save Italy?

'So the small Scandinavian nations have given to the world famous men of science, from Linnacus downwards, poets like Tegner and Bjornson, scholars like Madvig, dauntless explorers like Fridthiof Nansen. England had, in the age of Shakespeare, Bacon, and Milton, a population little larger than that of Bulgaria to-day. The United States, in the days of Washington and Franklin and Jefferson and Hamilton and Marshall, counted fewer inhabitants than Denmark or Greece.'

Interprovincial

An anonymous donor has made a gift to the Auckland Library of five autograph letters by Robert Louis Stevenson to his mother, and one from the mother to the son. This will be housed in the literary section of the reference library. The value of the gift is set down at £150.

Only about half the flaxmills in the Manawatu district are working at present (says the *Standard*). Messrs A. and L. Seifert closed their big Miranui mill at Makerua, at which 170 or 180 men were employed on Saturday. It is their intention to open again at the New Year, but the present action has been necessary through the slump in the hemp market since the outbreak of the war.

A Riversdale gentleman who is credited with possessing more than the average amount of good luck proved such to be the case by an experience he met with a few days ago (says the *Mataura Ensign*). A strong wind was blowing, and in a hurry he proceeded to the railway station with three £1 notes loose in his pocket. Later he missed the money, and subsequently another gentleman discovered two of the notes stuck on the spokes of a wheel of a motor car, while the third note was found in the long grass near by.

Of 159 steerage passengers who arrived at Wellington from Sydney by the Manuka on Tuesday a proportion of the men are shearers and slaughtermen who have been working in New South Wales and Queensland during the past two months, and who now come to look for work in New Zealand. On account of the drought things in the country on the other side are described as 'none too bright,' and one man who returned on Tuesday said he would not be surprised to see a good many farm hands coming across to look for work on this side.

'I really think that it would be a good thing if the law was made in such a way that every councillor should be compelled to go round New Zealand once a year. We waste a lot of money for want of knowledge.' These remarks came from the Mayor when the Napier Borough Council was discussing the proposal to secure a motor fire engine (says the *Hawke's Bay Herald*). One instance was mentioned where such tours might prove a benefit. In Napier it had been found that the fitting first installed at the baths were unsatisfactory, and had to be replaced. A local body in another part had just made the same mistake, which might have been obviated had the councillors had the benefit of Napier's experience.

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FOR SALE the BUSINESS of the late WM. INGS, including the Goodwill and the Practice of a Dentist carried on by him in his Rooms, Tablet Buildings, Octagon, Dunedin, and of the Lease of the Rooms, together with the Furniture, Fittings, Instruments, and Stock now upon the premises, and either with or without the Book Debts.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to MESSRS GEORGE AND J. A. COOK, Solicitors, Crawford street, Dunedin.