

WAR.

Everybody knows that war is idiotic, futile, calamitous, and settles nothing. And yet nearly everybody says, "There must always be war." In past days people no doubt said, "Brides must always be won by knocking girls on the head and carrying them off senseless. Evidence must always be obtained by torture. Little children must always work eighteen hours a day, because human nature will always be like that." Well, they were wrong. Human nature did not continue to be like that. . . . How does human nature change? By the action of the individual. It changes by you thinking straight, and so changing your nature, and by me thinking straight and so changing my nature. It does not change by each of us waiting for the other to begin. Human nature will change in its attitude to war by casting out fear. War is not the product of courage; it is the product of fear. Hence the insane maxim that if you want peace you must prepare for war. If you prepare for bankruptcy, you will have bankruptcy; if you prepare for war, you will have war; and equally if you prepare for peace, you will have peace. . . . The indispensable preliminary to peace is courage to confront the risks, and faith to believe that public opinion (your opinion and mine) can be strong enough to stop guns going off.—Arnold Bennett.

HAVE PATIENCE.

(Berton Braley.)

Moonshine is plenty, no doubt;
Yes, you can get it, that's true,
Just seek a bootlegger out,
He'll sell his poison to you.
Still, booze is passing away,
Though there is many a leak
Rum wasn't built in a day,
Rum can't be smashed in a week.

Hooch has held man in its thrall,
Age after age it appears;
We can't get rid of it all
Just in a couple of years—
There's bound to be some delay
Getting the dryness we seek.
Rum wasn't built in a day,
Rum can't be smashed in a week.

Prime Minister's Office,

Wellington, 9th March, 1923.

Dear Madam,—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, forwarding copy of a resolution adopted at the Eleventh Convention of the World's W.C.T.U., assembled at Philadelphia, and, in reply, to say that the representations contained therein have been duly noted.—Yours faithfully,

W. F. MASSEY.

Miss Agnes E. Slack,

Hon. Secretary W.C.T.U.,

Caxton Buildings,

Ripley, Derbyshire, England.

THE GREAT GUEST COMES.

While the Cobbler mused, there passed
his pane
A beggar drenched by the driving rain;
He called him in from the stony street,
And gave him shoes for his bruised feet.
The beggar went, and there came a
crone,
Her face with wrinkles of sorrow sown;
A bundle of faggots bowed her back,
And she was spent with the wrench
and rack.
He gave her his loaf, and steadied her
load,
As she took her way on the weary road.
Then to his doot came a little child,
Lost and afraid in the world so wild;
In the big dark world,—Catching it up,
He gave it milk in the waiting cup,
And led it home to its mother's arms,
Out of the reach of the world's alarms.

The day went down in the crimson
west,
And with it the hope of the blessed
Guest,
And Conrad sighed as the world turned
gray,
"Why is it, Lord, that your feet delay?
Did you forget that this was the day?"
Then, soft in the silence, a voice he
heard—
"Lift up your heart, for I kept my
word.
Three times I came to your friendly
door;
Three times My shadow was on your
floor;
I was the beggar with bruised feet;
I was the woman you gave to eat;
I was the child on the homeless street."

—Anon.

N.Z. W.C.T.U. Literature.

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