

and animated by the enthusiasm of a young and growing cause; and newspapers such as the "Times," the "Chronicle," the "Herald," and the "Post," and periodicals such as the "Quarterly Review," evidently deem the movement, of which they are a result, formidable enough to justify the attempt to write it down. It is certain too, that the substratum of right feeling in which the movement has originated, and which it represents in a rather exaggerated form, is vastly broader and more extensive than the movement itself. There are many thousands both in Britain and America, and not a few in France and Germany, whose judgments may be not at all satisfied by the expedients through which the Peace Societies propose putting an end to national wars, that yet share deeply in that general dislike of war itself which is happily so marked a characteristic of the age.

There is nothing positively new in what may be termed the main or central idea of the existing Peace Associations, viz., adjustment of national differences by arbitration, not arms. The true novelty presented lies in the fact that an idea restricted in the past to but single minds should now be operative in the minds of thousands. The reader may find in the works of Rousseau a treatise, originated by the Abbe de St Pierre, but edited and remodelled by the philosopher of Geneva, entitled a "Project for a Perpetual Peace," in which the expedient of a great European Court of Arbitration for national differences is elaborately developed. We question, indeed, whether any member of the Peace Societies of the present day has presented to his fellows, or the public generally, the master idea of these institutions in so artistic and plausible a form as that in which it was submitted to the world by Rousseau considerably more than eighty years ago. But though it attracted some degree of notice among the rulers of nations, it failed to attract anywhere the notice of the ruled,—that class of which the great bulk of nations are