

the confederacy. The scheme was hailed throughout Europe as the precursor of a better state of things than the world had yet seen; and liberal politicians everywhere, and more especially in Germany, were filled with the most sanguine expectations of happy results. Most of the European princes became members of this magnificent Peace Society; and England, though precluded from formally joining itself to it officially, intimated to its members that no other power could be more inclined to act upon the principles which its fundamental articles seemed necessarily to involve. It had its series of congresses; for, curiously enough, its meetings had the same name given them as those of our present Peace Associations; and at the first of these, held at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1818, there was prepared and subsequently published by its members, a declaration to the effect that peace was its paramount object. What, asks the reader, was the name borne by this eminently good and truly Christian Peace Society? Its name was the Holy Alliance,—a name that now stinks in the nostril; and it was in effect a foul and detestable conspiracy against the progress of nations and the best interests of the human species. But such, of necessity, must be the nature and character of every Peace Association of which the members are Governments, if a majority of these be despotic. And if the members of a Peace Association *be not* Governments, they can of course possess no powers of arbitration. In vain may Joseph Sturge and his friends propose themselves as arbiters in any such quarrel as that which recently took place between Austria and the Hungarians, or between France and Rome. The reply made to the pacific Quaker, were there to be reply at all, would be exactly that made by Captain Sword to Captain Pen,—

“ Let Captain Pen
Bring at his back a million men,
And I'll talk to his wisdom, and not till then.”