

portant. That dislike of war which good men have entertained in all ages is, we are happy to believe, a fast-spreading dislike. It was formerly entertained by units and tens; it is now cherished by thousands and tens of thousands. And, of course, the more the feeling grows in any country which, like France, Britain, and America, possesses a representative Government, the less chance will there be of these nations entering rashly into war. France and the United States have always had their senseless war parties. It is of importance, therefore, that they should possess also their balancing peace parties, even should these be well-nigh as senseless as the others. Again, in our own country, war is always the interest of a class largely represented in both Houses of Parliament. It is of great importance that they also should be kept in check, and their influence neutralized, by a party as hostile to war on principle as they are favourable to it from interest. We repose very considerable confidence in the common sense of the British people, and so have no fear that an irrational peace party should so increase in the country as to put in peril the national independence; and, not fearing this, we must hail as good and advantageous any revolution in that opinion in which all power is founded, which bids fair to render more rare than formerly those profitless exhibitions of national warfare which the poet of the "Seasons" so graphically describes:—

"What most showed the vanity of life  
 Was to behold the nations all on fire,  
 In cruel broils engaged and deadly strife:  
 Most Christian kings, inflamed by black desire,  
 With honourable ruffians in their hire,  
 Cause war to wage, and blood around to pour.  
 Of this sad work when each begins to tire,  
 They sit them down just where they were before,  
 Till for new scenes of woe, peace shall their force restore."

—November 10, 1849.