

and to deprive the people of all protection, save what a hostile military despotism may see fit to accord. It is cowardice of the meanest sort which denies to non-combatants the right of self-defense. But war is a cowardly as well as a barbarous game.

S. D.



Prayers Without Faith.

Do any of those who will pray for peace on October 4 demand appropriations for an army and navy? Do any uphold protective tariffs or other predatory taxes? Do any defend denial of the natural right of their fellowmen to the use of the earth? If so, where is their faith in the efficacy of prayer?

S. D.



A Warlike Clergyman.

A Baptist minister, Reverend I. M. Haldeman, of New York City, in a letter to the New York Herald, given a prominent place in its issue of September 7, demands the building by the United States Government of fifty warships and increasing of the standing army to 200,000 men. To make his position perfectly clear, Mr. Haldeman denounces as a fallacy "that human government is to be maintained on the basis and by the exercise of the Golden Rule." Of course he is entitled to his opinion, and to the right to express it. What is more, he deserves encouragement for frankly saying what he thinks, since that is far better than to endorse war and to dodge explanations about the Golden Rule. Mr. Haldeman makes clear that when called upon to choose between faith in armaments and faith in the teachings of the Prince of Peace he prefers the former. With the possible exception of some ritualistic ceremonies, there can be but little difference between his religion and that of those, whom perhaps he calls "heathen," who share his belief in the superiority of the sword to the principles of Christianity, as a means of preserving peace. It would be interesting to know if any of Mr. Haldeman's brother clergymen share his faith—or lack of it—and, if so, whether they share his courage to proclaim it.

S. D.



Saul Also Among the Prophets.

Not a few persons rubbed their eyes in amazement when they saw in the newspapers the report that Representative Hobson, of Merrimac and kissing fame, had introduced a resolution directing the President of the United States to call a special assembly of delegates to the third international peace conference, in Washington—as

soon as practicable," to attempt to end the European war. When Hobson, sponsor for a big navy, hero of young ladies' seminaries, and baiter of Japanese, begins to talk peace, Mars may as well sheathe his sword. Next thing, we shall hear that the Big Stick has been used to prop a clothes-line.

S. C.



Inexcusable Extravagance.

Concerning the suggestion that naval vessels be put to useful purposes, a naval officer writes to show its impracticability. To carry either freight or passengers the vessels must be entirely rebuilt, he says. That only makes clearer than ever how hopelessly wasted was the money spent in building these ships.

S. D.



Conflicting Emotions.

What American does not thrill at E. A. Powell's account of his journey from Antwerp to Brussels through Belgian and German lines with dispatches for United States Minister, Brand Whitlock:

From Louvain to Brussels our car with its fluttering flags passed between lines of cheering people all the way. Men stood with uncovered heads as they saw the Stars and Stripes whirl by; women waved their handkerchiefs as tears rolled down their cheeks. Soon we were passing between solid walls of Belgians, who screamed "Vive Amerique!" A lump came into my throat and tears filled my eyes. To these wretched, terror-stricken people the banner that streamed from our windshield really was "a Flag of the Free."

Nor are the governments of the several countries less backward in paying homage to this country. America, indeed, today towers above the nations of the world like Saul among his brethren.



But why? Is it because we have a great military establishment, an invincible navy, or an unconquerable army? Is it because we have the most extensive territory, the most people, or the greatest wealth? No, we are exceeded in all these, save wealth, by some other nation. Our distinction is due wholly to the fact that we have an ideal, Democracy, and at the present time are led by a man who is trying to live up to that ideal. Had we the largest navy and army in the world we could do nothing with them but help the Allies to whip the Germans, or aid the Germans in overcoming the Allies. In either case we should merely add to the misery of the world, and end by having the enmity of one or both sides to the conflict. But by holding aloft an ideal, and satis-

fyng the people of the world that we are reasonably faithful to that ideal, we can help both sides, not only in hastening the end of the war, but in allaying the bitterness that is to follow.



The weakness of America today lies in her backslidings. In times past her affairs have fallen under the charge of Tories, reactionaries, men who have failed to grasp our ideal, and so have drifted blindly, and madly through the currents of political passion, in disregard of social and economic justice. For Democracy has not had an unobstructed way in this country. Privilege here has been incorporated into law, as it has in Europe; and the violence that is ever the fruit of privilege has blackened many a page of American history. Just what these reversions mean may be seen in the words of the Turkish Ambassador to the United States:

I will permit myself to say that the thought of the lynchings which occur daily in the United States and the memory of the water cures in the Philippines should make them chary of attacking Turkey in connection with acts of savagery committed by her under provocation compared with which the economic competition of an Italian or the sniping of a Filipino or even the outrage of a negro are as nothing.



But it is not alone the acts of personal violence and military aggression that today rise up and accuse us of unfaithfulness to our ideals. Not only have we defied the law, but we have had courts to misinterpret the law, and we have had legislatures to emasculate the law in its making. Big-stick statesmanship was accompanied by big-stick finance, and Labor and Capital, in the grip of Monopoly, have struggled for survival, as the victims of the Black Hole fought for air. Even at a time when the victims of European militarism cheer our flag, and European governments are waiting for us to save them from their folly, President Wilson is obliged to plead with the contending coal mine factions in Colorado to be reasonable. "This is a time," he says, "when everything should be done that is possible for men to do to see that all untoward and threatening circumstances of every sort are taken out of the life of the people of the United States." And he adds: "I hope that you will consider it as if you were acting for the whole country."



Here is our weakness. Here we must grow strength. It is not a greater navy that we need, nor a greater army. Our foes are not without our

borders, but within. And their enmity and violence are due rather to their ignorance than to evil propensities. That Colorado's black chapter of disgrace should have been due to the very riches that nature has showered upon her simply adds to her shame. Had nature starved her children there might have been some excuse for fighting for the last crust. But for them to fight because of her favors is madness. Colorado must find a way to distribute the blessings of nature among all her citizens. To give her natural resources into the keeping of a few, who are thus able to exploit the many, is merely to perpetuate in this country the very worst features of European privilege.



America today is as a city set on a hill. The ideal that she has raised aloft, freedom of action and equality of opportunity, in a word, Democracy, is the hope of mankind. Whoso does aught to lower that ideal, or in any way hinders its realization, is the enemy not only of his own country, but of the human race. Much has been given us; much will be required in return. We have been blessed in land, in people, and in time; for with the wisdom of the past it is given to us to work out in a new country the problems of the future. It is for us here and now to resolve that American diplomacy shall not again be lowered from its present position, and that our domestic policy shall be raised in keeping with it. s. c.



A Humiliating Position.

The Jones bill's grant of autonomy to the Philippines is so far short of independence, to which the Filipinos are justly entitled, that it is no wonder that the periodical called The Philippine Republic, issued at Hong Kong, expresses disappointment and irritation. There is no explanation possible of the failure to keep the pledge of the Democratic platform, except the discreditable one, that there are not enough Democratic Congressmen and Senators willing to see that it is kept. President Wilson has found it no easy task to hold enough members in line to secure fulfillment of pledges directly concerning the American people. The Jones bill probably represents about all that can at present be obtained from Congress in fulfillment of a pledge that concerns people thousands of miles away, who have no power to punish faithless Congressmen. Disgraceful as the situation is, it must be recognized and accepted. s. d.