

not yet been declared. It is possible that it may not be. What can those who yet see, do to open the eyes of those who are blinded by passion? President Wilson stands for peace, and for the justice that can come only through peace. He may have made mistakes in his treatment of the Mexican problem, and his policies may not have been the best, but there can be no question that he has kept ever in mind the fact that Mexicans are our brother men, and that we can do more for each other as friends than we can as enemies. Nor is there any doubt that he still holds to this high ideal. But he has ventured upon a policy fraught with the gravest dangers. Powerful interests are more eager than ever to force his hand; and a war-mad people, backed by an echoing press, clamors to enter the shambles. It is the duty of every man and woman who has at heart, not alone the immediate victims of war, but those infinitely larger numbers who suffer in after days from the blight of war, to throw every ounce of weight into the scales for peace.

s. c.



### Etiquette and War.

A Chinaman of the old school sees an insurmountable objection to a railroad in the fact that building of it will disturb the grave of some ancestor. Some Americans who see the absurdity of that position adhere to a similar absurdity. They hold the refusal of a Mexican official to salute the American flag to be an insurmountable objection to peace. They can no more comprehend how such a refusal may "with honor" be ignored than the Chinaman can understand of what little importance is his ancestor's grave. Because of the obsession which so greatly magnifies the importance of a rule of naval etiquette, the nation has been driven to the position of threatening or of actually beginning war on Mexico. Never again let us treat with contempt the most ridiculous superstitious rite of the most ignorant savage tribe.



It may be asked, "What should have been done?" We were insulted and defied. The apology actually tendered was insufficient. Moreover it was not the first time such disrespect has been shown us." Well, a sensible man will bear in mind the words of the poet Cowper: "No gentleman will insult me. No other can." It is true that Cowper's wisdom is still too deep for most so-called statesmen of this and other countries to grasp. But we should not wait for these to realize the absurdity of some customs of the dark ages in order to adhere to a policy of peace. We should

not be influenced by unintelligent foreign jibes and sneers. If back-number statesmen and publicists of other countries consider self restraint a sign of weakness, then the reflection is on them, not on us. So the incident at Tampico should have been treated by the nation as a sensible individual would treat an insult that had not really injured him. It should have accepted the apology offered, while the Admiral misled by a back-number education into insisting on a certain ceremony, should have been instructed to give common-sense the preference over mediaeval tradition. Surely a question of etiquette may no longer be considered justification for an aggressive war.

s. d.



### No Time to Pass Army Bills.

A period of war excitement is always taken advantage of by selfish seekers to gain some sinister object. The feeling concerning Mexico is now being used to push to adoption the Hay bill, the object of which is to practically increase the standing army. Those back of the measure clearly feel that calm discussion of the bill, when the war fever will have subsided, will show it to be unfit for adoption. So it has been kept in committee for months waiting a favorable opportunity when any attempt to check it can be howled down. Evidently the present is considered just such a time. That is the very reason why it should not be passed now. If the bill has merit it can stand being subjected to discussion when there is no war spirit abounding. If it can not stand such discussion, it should not be passed at all. In either case action on it should be delayed. To force it to passage now is to confess that it will not bear calm inspection.

s. d.



### Geographical Politics.

Of all the absurd possibilities of the protective spirit it is doubtful if any surpass its application to political representation. Avowedly for the benefit of the voters—as the tariff is for the protection of labor—it is in reality maintained in the interests of machine politics, and those businesses that make use of machine politics. Aldermen must be elected from arbitrarily prescribed wards, and Congressmen must represent districts laid out every ten years by the party that happens to be in control of the Federal government after the taking of the census. The scandal attaching to these gerrymanders is the least objection to the system. An absolutely honest apportionment, that is, one that allotted to each district the proportion of voters in each party that the party bore to the total