

WHAT UNIVERSAL PEACE REALLY MEANS.

By Baroness Von Suttner.



The whole object of the peace advocates consists in turning the people and the governments to kindness and mutual love. They strive to show how much pleasanter, more comfortable and healthier it is to live in peace than it is to quarrel and fight. The public imagines the peace advocates to be a sort of a wishy-washy flock of sheepish men upon whom our war lords look down with contempt and whose arguments are now and then refuted by historians and other learned men. This conception of the peace advocate, however, is wrong. The peace advocate as the public thinks of him is only a phantom. He is only a caricature created by those who know nothing whatever about the movement and agitation for universal peace.

War has from time immemorial been and is at the present day the ruling motive and course of human society. Peace is an interruption and an accident. What the advocates of peace want is precisely to turn the thing around. They want to make peace the ruling course and motive of human society, and war, in so far as it ever could arise, to be only an illegal interruption. In our present society, which rests entirely upon a war basis, peace is maintained only through expensive war preparations and through the constructing of fortifications.

The movement for universal peace has in the last few years developed into a science. Sciences never create, plead or force phenomena—they merely observe them and recognize them. The movement toward universal peace accomplishes more and more as the world becomes organized as its separate units begin to unite more closely. This is a process in harmony with the laws of nature. To conclude a universal peace pact between all nations is the next step in human development.