HISTORICAL OUTLINE
OF
THE MODERN
PEACE MOVEMENT.

PEACE SOCIETY:
47, NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
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Modern organised efforts for the promotion of Peace date from the close of the long Continental wars which were terminated by the Peace of Paris, in November, 1815. These wars had profoundly shocked many persons on both sides of the Atlantic, and had awakened a conviction that the Christian Churches generally had not shown any adequate sense of their responsibility with regard to the horrors and sins involved in international conflicts.

In America this sentiment was represented by Dr. W. Ellery Channing and Dr. Noah Worcester, who, as early as 1814, began to urge the friends of Peace to organise themselves for united effort. A Peace Society was formally established at New York in August, 1815. In the following December the Ohio Peace Society was formed. The Massachusetts (Boston) Society was instituted in January, 1816, whilst similar societies were established in Rhode Island and Maine in 1817. These societies combined together with that of South Carolina, in 1828, to form the American Peace Society, which is still vigorous and active, having its head-quarters in Boston (1, Somerset Street), and as its Secretary, the Rev. R. B. Howard. A Society was also formed in Philadelphia in 1816, which, in 1868, was followed by the Universal Peace Union (219, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia), the President of which is Alfred H. Love, and which has to-day nearly thirty branches.

The Peace movement in England received an impulse from the reaction of national distress and discontent which followed the Napoleonic war, when the people began to feel the burdens and the misery which it had occasioned.
In 1814, a zealous philanthropist, Mr. Wm. Allen, F.R.S., a member of the Society of Friends, assembled at his house in Plough Court, Lombard Street, London, a number of gentlemen, with a view to establish a Peace Society; but the way did not immediately open, and the project was for the time postponed.

In 1816, after the Peace had been signed, Mr. Allen, together with his friend and co-religionist Joseph Tregelles Price, of Neath Abbey, Glamorganshire, again convened his friends, and succeeded in establishing the English Peace Society.

“Peace Society.”

The first impulse to its formation came from the Society of Friends, which had always borne a faithful testimony to the Christian principle of Peace. Its founders, however, did not exclusively belong to that body. Some were members of the Church of England; some were Nonconformists.

It was avowedly a religious body. As the basis of its operations it adopted the broad principle that “war is inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity and the true interests of mankind.” It has always been absolutely unsectarian. One of its earliest rules was, “The Society shall consist of persons of every denomination who are desirous of uniting in the promotion of peace on earth and goodwill towards men.”

The Peace Society has been always an International Society. From the very first it has recognised the desirability of bringing other nations, as far as was practicable, within the scope of its influence.

One of the first things done by the founders of the Society was to get their most important publications translated into French, German, Spanish, and Italian.

Immediately after its formation in 1816, Mr. J. T. Price, who had been the main agent in founding the Society, visited France with a view to enlisting the co-operation of Christian men and philanthropists in that country.

Some objections were raised to the establishment of an organisation under the avowed name of a Peace Society. The difficulty was, however, obviated by the institution of “La Société de Morale Chrétienne,” having for its object the application of the precepts of Christianity to social relations. This Society existed for more than a quarter of a century, and gathered round it, in the course of its history, many distinguished Frenchmen. Its first President was the Due de Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, its second was his son the Marquis of the same name. Other members were, M. Benjamin Constant, the Due de Broglie, M. de Lamartine, M. Guizot, M. Carnot, M. Duchâtel, etc. The promotion of Peace was one of the objects of this Association. Among other means, in pursuance of this object, it offered a prize for the best essay showing that war is opposed to the true spirit of Christianity, does violence to the sentiment of humanity, and is contrary to the prosperity of nations; and indicating other means by which the disputes of nations may be settled than by having recourse to the sword. Two of the successful essays were published and circulated in France. A branch of this Society was also established at Geneva, under the auspices of Count de Genes-Sellon. With both these Societies the parent Society entered into cordial relations and kept up a close and constant correspondence.

For several years the Society employed a Continental Agent, Mr. Stephen Rigaud, who travelled through France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland, delivering lectures when that could be done, distributing tracts and other publications, and forming Committees and Associations for the promotion of Peace.

Between the years 1848 and 1851 there was a still bolder Peace Congress of the Continent of Europe by a series of Congresses, which were held at Brussels, Paris, and Frankfort, and which were attended by many hundreds of delegates, representing nearly all the countries of Europe, and including many men of great distinction.

The work was continued by Mr. Henry Richard, the Continental Secretary, who, on one occasion, facetiously described himself as “a sort of wandering missionary in this cause.” At least twenty times he visited the Continent and advocated the principles of Peace and Arbitration in many, if not most, of the cities of Europe, including Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Pesth, Dresden, Leipzig, Munich, Frankfort, Brussels, Antwerp, Bremen, Cologne, The Hague, Amsterdam, Genoa, Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan, Turin, etc.

These efforts were attended with good results. Societies were formed; the friends of Peace were roused to action, encouraged to organise themselves, and often substantially assisted and stimulated; fast friendships were formed, and an intercourse established which personally was terminated only by the death of Mr. Richard, and which was...
bequeathed to his successors. The Society has always been in friendly and frequent communication with the friends of Peace in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and other Continental countries.

The year 1867 witnessed a remarkable awakening of Peace sentiment on the Continent, especially in France. Various Societies were the result:

The Ligue Internationale de la Paix was founded by M. Passy. In 1872 its name was altered to La Société Française des Amis de la Paix. This it retained until its recent amalgamation with the Comité de Paris de la Fédération Internationale de l' Arbitrage et de la Paix, which was founded by Mr. Hodgson Pratt in 1883. The new Society, resulting from the amalgamation, bears the title of La Société Française de l' Arbitrage entre Nations. Its President is still appropriately, M. Frédéric Passy, member of the Chamber of Deputies, &c.; its General Secretary, Le Docteur Charles Richet; its Secretaries, MM. Thiaudière and Léon Marilier; its Bureau, 111, Boulevard St. Germain, and its organ, L' Arbitre. La Ligue Internationale de la Paix et de la Liberté was formed at Geneva by M. Charles Lemonnier, under whose energetic presidency it has consistently sought, by the promotion of European Federation and of the establishment of the "United States of Europe," to realise practically its objects of Peace and Liberty. There were also formed the Ligue du Désarmement, and L'Union de la Paix at Havre. But the most remarkable movement of the year was connected with a spontaneous interchange of friendly addresses and salutations between the working men of France and Germany, and the endeavour to secure permanent results by the formation at Biebrich, on the Rhine, of an Association formed of French and German working men.

In Italy, the following year, 1868, an Italian Committee of Peace, under Count Arrabene, Signor Mancini, and other M.P.'s, was formed in order to bring before the nation, and before Parliament, the question of the solemn repudiation of war, and the substitution of defensive for aggressive armaments.

Two years later, 8th Sept., 1870, as the result of a visit by Mr. Richard, the Dutch Peace Society was formed at the Hague by M. Van Eck and others. Eight or ten such Associations, in consequence of this visit, sprang into existence during the year at the Hague, Amsterdam, Tivolle, Groningen, and other places. One of these, the Ladies' Peace Society at Amsterdam, under Miss Bergerdahl, deserves notice for its advanced and thorough Peace platform.

This Society was dignified by various names. It was known, in 1872, as the National Union of Peace Societies in Holland; in 1878, as the Netherlands League of Peace. Its present designation is the Algemeene Nederlandse Vredelijkte Bond, for the promotion of International Peace. For seventeen years M. Geo. Belinfante was its indefatigable Secretary. Last year he died, and has been succeeded by M. C. Bake. Bureau, 28, Veerbaai, The Hague.

In 1871 the Belgian Association of the Friends of Peace Belgium, was formed at Brussels, together with a local Association at Verviers.

At home, the Peace Society—the history of which, from 1816-1870, is the history of the Peace movement in Britain—by persevering advocacy and at the English Peace Society.

It has employed all the means by which any public question can be advanced. By lectures and public meetings; by the distribution of literature; by the diligent use of the Press; by Addresses to peoples and Memorials to Government; by Petitions, and Motions in Parliament; by Missions to Sunday and other schools; by endeavours to influence religious bodies and to enlist the sympathy of ministers, students, Christian workers; by communications and conferences with Friends of Peace in other countries; by all practicable methods it has sought to promote its objects.

The Society has by no means restricted itself to the inauguration of abstract principles. From the first it has advocated Arbitration as a substitute for War, the ultimate establishment of a Code of International Law and a Court of Nations, and the reduction, with a view to the final abolition, of Standing Armies; while it has not failed to lift up its voice in depreciation of the actual wars in which England and other Countries have been engaged.

As illustrations of its advocacy of Arbitration the following facts may be mentioned:—In the year 1840 two prizes were offered by it for the best Essays, one object of which was to show the best means of settling disputes without having recourse to arms. The two successful essays were published and had a wide circulation.

At a General International Peace Congress held by it in London, in 1843, an address, "To the Governments of the
civilised world," was adopted, respectfully calling their attention to the principle of Arbitration, and urging its adoption. This address was presented to fifty-five Governments either by deputation or through their recognised ambassadors or ministers.

The Peace Society, by a Deputation to the Plenipotentiaries of the Great Powers who were negotiating the Treaty of Paris in 1856, succeeded in securing, in one of the protocols of that Treaty, a solemn recognition of the principle of Arbitration.

At the instance of the Society Mr. Cobden brought forward in the British House of Commons a motion on the subject of Arbitration, which, when it was first announced, was received with murmurs of surprise and derision, but which led to a very grave and important debate.

In the Session of 1873 a motion on the same subject, of a more decided character, was introduced into the same House by the Secretary of the Peace Society, Mr. H. Richard, M.P., and was carried by a considerable majority. That led to similar triumphs in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, in the States General of Holland, in the Second Chamber of the Diet of Sweden, in the House of Deputies and Senate of Belgium, and, since that time, to other triumphs in other Legislatures.

But the most signal sign of success connected with the modern Peace movement and its advocacy of Arbitration lies in the fact that since its commencement there have been over 60 actual cases of successful Arbitration, and a large number of instances in which an Arbitration clause has been inserted in Treaties, amounting in the case of Italy alone, through the influence of Signor Mancini, to no fewer than 19.

The English Peace Society does not take to itself the credit of all this. It claims these results for the modern Peace movement and it claims for itself to have been at the heart of the movement and to have contributed its share to these results.

From their formation the English and American Peace Societies have moved side by side in brotherly intercourse and perseverance.

There are now over forty Peace Societies in America. Besides those already mentioned, viz., the American Peace Society and the Universal Peace Union, the principal are:—

The Christian Arbitration and Peace Society, 310,
Ladies' Societies.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Peace Society was formed in April, 1874; Mrs. E. M. Southey, Secretary. It continued to work in harmony with the Society until 1882, when a separation took place. Part of the membership was reconstituted as an Auxiliary of the Peace Society, under the Presidency of Mrs. H. Richard, and the Vice-Presidency of Miss P. H. Peekover. It has now developed into the Local Peace Association Auxiliary of the Peace Society, and has thirty-three separate local branches in England alone. The Secretary is Miss R. B. Braithwaite, 312, Camden Road, London, N.

The other section formed itself into the Women's Peace and Arbitration Association, of which Mrs. E. M. Southey Rosenthal, Dacres Road, Forest Hill, S.E., is Secretary, and Mrs. M. Bright Lucas—who is also a Vice-President of the parent Society—is President.

The Continental.

On the Continent, meanwhile, considerable progress was made.

In Italy the League of Peace and Fraternity had been formed at Milan early in 1878 by Signor E. T. Moneta, and others, at the head of the Working Men's Associations, a letter of Mr. H. Richard, published in the Secolo, having contributed in no small degree to its formation.

A Workmen's Peace Society was also established in Paris by M. Desmoulins and others, early in 1879, under the title of "Société des Travailleurs de la Paix."

The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Association (Svenska Freds- och Skiljedoms-Föreningen), was formed April, 1883, by M. S. A. Hedlund, M.P., who became its President, and M. K. P. Arnoldson its Secretary.

In the same year, 1883, was formed the Norsk Union against War (Nordisk Forening mod Krig) at Christiania; but that Association has ceased to exist.

At the close of 1882 (Nov. 28) was formed at Copenhagen the Danish Peace Association, Dansk Fredsføring, or Association for the Neutralisation of Denmark (Föreningen til Danmarks Neutilsering), of which M. Fred. Bajer, M.P., Copenhagen, N., is President, and which has twenty-five branches in Denmark.

There is also a Ladies' Association in Copenhagen, Kvindelig-Fremskridts-Förening, of which Mme. M. Bajer is President, which places the advocacy of Peace prominently on its programme.

The Société de Paix et d'Arbitrage International du Familistère de Guise (Aisne), France, was founded in 1884 by M. Godin, who was indefatigable in obtaining adhesions to the principle of International Arbitration, and whose efforts and correspondence were spread over forty-two Departments in France.

Mention should also be made of La Société d'Aide à d'Enfants Sociales; President, Pastor F. Fallot, Bureau 17, Rue des Petits Hotels, Paris; of the Société de la Paix par l'Education, Rue Stanislas 6, Paris; of the Société des Amis de la Paix de Clermont-Ferrand, Rue Saint Eloi 9; of the Société, "La Fraternité Universelle," Grammont, Canton de Saint-Galmier (Loire), and especially of the Association des Jeunes Amis de la Paix, Nimes, of which M. F. Passy, M.P., is Hon. President, and M. J. Dumas, Avenue de la Plateforme 8, Nimes, is Secretary.

The International Arbitration and Peace Association for Great Britain and Ireland was founded in 1880. It has been fortunate in securing, in Mr. Hodgson Pratt, a Chairman whose ability, leisure, means, and indefatigable zeal, make him emphatically a leader in the Peace movement, to which he has consecrated himself. His visits to the Continent have been fruitful in influence and results. He has succeeded in establishing, among others, the Frankfort Association for promoting International Arbitration (Friedensverein zu Frankfort-a-Main), President Herr Franz Wirth, of which Madame Fischer-Lette is a very energetic and useful member, and the Comité de la Hongrie, de la Fédération de l'Arbitrage et de la Paix, Buda-Pesth; while among affiliated branches of the Associations are: The Wurtemburg Branch (Association de l'Arbitrage et de la Paix du Wurtemburg), Stuttgart, 4 Marien Strasse; The Associazione per l'Arbitrato e la Pace tra le Nazione, Rome: President, His Excellency Ruggiero Bonghi; UNIONE LOMBARDA per la Pace e l'Arbitrato Internazionale, Milan; and various others. For in Italy during the last two years there has been a most remarkable development of sentiment in favour of Peace, an indication of which may be seen in the fact that at the recent Congress in Rome no fewer than thirty-five societies were represented. This movement has not been confined to any class of the Community, or any political or ecclesiastical party, but has extended alike to all.

One of the more recent creations is the Fédération Internationale de l'Arbitrage et de la Paix, Section Belge,
Rue Joseph II. 39, Bruxelles, which dates from 15th April, 1889, and is under the presidency of M. E. de Laveleye. Though the youngest of the great Peace Confederacy it is not the least promising, and like all its associates it is the child of necessity, for it is the outcome of the terrible war system of Europe, against which its existence is a protest.

Against that increasingly intolerable system, the International Peace Congress, which is to meet in Paris from June 23rd to 27th is itself a protest. It will form the Parliament of these various societies, whose representatives, together with other friends of Peace, will there meet in fraternal consultation, both to express and exemplify their principles, and in the multitude of counsellors to gather wisdom for future effort. The Congress forms both a goal and a departure. It is a dividing line between past and future—the past which is so full of encouragement, the future which is full of promise and difficulty. A large and practical programme has been prepared, embracing such subjects as,

- International Arbitration, in theory and practice;
- The Neutralisation of Territories;
- The Principle of Federation;
- The Reform of International Law;

and, incidentally,

- The Simultaneous Reduction of Armaments;
- The Liberation of Peoples from the Domination and Ruin of Militarism;
- And the Promotion of the Brotherhood of Nations.

These are all subjects within the limits of the work waiting to be attempted, some of which is exceedingly pressing. The Congress assembles at one of the most critical moments in the history of Europe and of the world. It is not too much to hope that it may recognise, and with a sagacious wisdom, make the most of, its opportunity, and that it may reach some practical issues which will form the starting point of a grander history and even more satisfactory successes than those outlined here.