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## EDITORIAL.

### THE ROMANCE OF WAR.

*If you love and serve men, you cannot by any hiding or stratagem escape the remuneration. Secret retributions are always restoring the level, when disturbed, of the divine justice. It is impossible to tilt the beam. All the tyrants and proprietors and monopolists of the world in vain set their shoulders to heave the bar. Settles for evermore the ponderous equator to its line, and man and mote, star and sun, must range to it, or be pulverized by the recoil.—*  
EMERSON.

The Romance of War surely passed with the days of chivalry, when men faced one another on the field of battle, and won victory with their own skilled arms; with mechanised warfare, chivalry is no longer possible—and men must realise that mass murder must cease if civilisation is to exist. It is well, therefore, to learn that "somewhere at sea" Mr. Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Mr. Roosevelt, President of the United States, have met in a historic three days' discussion, have drawn up a joint declaration on peace aims, on which they base their hopes for the evolution of the higher instincts of man.

We are thankful for a touch of romance in this meeting, to know that the splendid Battleship *Prince of Wales* conveyed our Prime Minister both on the outward and homeward voyages, that Destroyers from the Home Fleet went to and fro as an escort—thus evidence of our splendid Navy demonstrated the power of the glorious Service which has made and will keep the British Empire supreme.

### EIGHT-POINT PEACE AIMS.

It was at several personal conferences that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt drew up their eight-point peace aims, and it has been announced that they had agreed upon the following joint declaration:—

*The President of the United States and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.*

FIRST: Their countries seek no aggrandisement, territorial or otherwise.

SECOND: They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

THIRD: They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live, and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

FOURTH: They will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment of all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.

FIFTH: They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security.

SIXTH: After the final destruction of Nazi tyranny they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries and which will afford assurance that all men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

SEVENTH: Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.

EIGHTH: They believe all the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea, or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten outside their frontiers, they believe that, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

### MERCY WHEN PENITENCE DESERVES IT.

This altruistic announcement has met with wide approval from all sorts and conditions of men; and yet its fulfilment is not practicable without change of heart.

The history of the war by which Europe is being devastated is the history of evil instincts, unbridled avarice, cruelty and tyranny. To eradicate such instincts will need corrective treatment with a firm hand, and there must be no hesitation in its application. Surely civilised peoples the world over have learned the lesson that it is their duty to crush the possibility of further suffering, devastation and crime. Mercy, yes, when penitence deserves it, but until evidence of the realisation of human instinct is apparent, civilised peoples must unite to save their souls alive.

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