

Four Lights

"Then he showed four lights when he wished them to set full sail and follow in his wake."

From "First Voyage 'Round the World by Magellan."



JAN. 27, 1917

AN ADVENTURE IN INTERNATIONALISM

ISSUE I.

FOUR LIGHTS will attempt to voice the young, uncompromising woman's peace movement in America, whose aims are daring and immediate.—to stop the war in Europe, to federate the nations for organized peace at the close of the war, and meanwhile to guard democracy from the subtle dangers of militarism.

America, deceived into establishing an enormous military machine which must not only destroy her own liberties but endanger the liberties of other peoples, America, busily forging weapons to menace the spirit of freedom struggling to life in exhausted Europe at the close of the war,—that is the picture which above all has made us fighters for peace. That America, the hope of liberty, should become its destroyer! Rather do we burn to pledge our country for World Union as the only hope of both peace and democracy.

ADVICE TO WASHINGTON SHOPPERS.

In spite of the \$615,000,000 naval appropriation last year, Secretary Daniels is asking for a little matter of twelve millions more for four battle cruisers and three scout cruisers. I do not like Secretary Daniels thus to go shopping with our money—yours and mine and poor, bloodthirsty little Marjorie's. I should like him to buy friendship for us instead. It would cost less and last longer.

In ten years of peace-time usage the best battleship that can be built becomes obsolete, useless, a pile of junk. Under conditions of war it might last an hour, this expensive engine of murder. Now, suppose, instead of these costly luxuries, Mr. Daniels sent abroad two thousand men and women of our finest types to talk and write and sing and picturize P-E-A-C-E?

Suppose we paid them each \$5,000 a year? Ten million dollars for something that would go on in ever-widening circles of constructive thought while a single 'battle cruiser' was eating up coal and blowing its head off in gun practice! Since war is wrought by the pressure of a few minds upon the fear and ignorance of the many, why not spend our millions in flooding with the light of reason the minds of this driven humanity? Why not help them to see that the bravery of refusal is finer than the blindness of obedience? That the people's dooryards are more sacred than the nation's boundary-lines?

ZOË BECKLEY.

OUR HIRELING POLICE FORCE.

Certain red-blooded gentlemen on the eastern coast of the United States are reported as blushing with shame at the ignominy of being protected by a hireling army. "Military service," they say, "should be universal." One might just as well blush at "the humiliation" of being protected by a hireling police force. Who am I, for instance, that I should retire to a comfortable bed at night while some poor fellow paces up and down the block exposed to the rigors of the weather, suffering not only rheumatism and chilblains but running the hazard of injury and death at the hands of desperate criminals? Why should he be shot to save me?

Whenever I see a blue-coat I should bow my head in bitter self-reproach. Where is our boasted democracy? We will never be worthy the name of republic till we have recognized the duty of every able-bodied man to take his turn in the protection of the city! Not till they have personally swung the billy will our youth sense the duty they owe their municipal government! "Disciplined initiative" will go far toward curing such evils as night carousing and general loose living. Why not give us universal service on "the force" to build a sturdier manhood?

If I were a consistent agitator for universal service, I should speak thus. But I leave such logic to the red-blooded gentlemen.

PAULINE K. ANGELL.

1916 STYLES IN HEROES.

"Lord Howard de Walden, who is serving at the Front as a major in the Westminster Dragoons, has an income estimated at \$3,600 a day. His Lordship is exceedingly skilful with sword and gun and once achieved the unique feat of shooting a pheasant and a hare at practically the same moment."

(London "Answers.")

"When the bullets were flying thickest in Dublin, Sheehy Skeffington, Irish patriot and pacifist, heard that a British captain was lying bleeding to death in the street because no one dared to go to his rescue. With a druggist whom he persuaded to go with him, he risked his life under a hail of bullets, carried the captain out of danger and bound up his wounds."

(N. Y. Evening Post.)

THE WOMEN'S TERMS.

"We will not bring more children into the world until we are assured that they will never be food for cannon."

For this speech a distinguished German woman is now under police surveillance— forbidden to speak again in public— forbidden to send letters outside the country. A silly masculine government evidently hopes thus to crush an idea which has circled the earth since the beginning of the Great War. Born first in the hearts of French women, echoed in Germany, reechoed in England and Russia, the idea has grown and spread until the day of a Mothers' Strike seems almost at hand.

One day the women of the world will state their terms: "Give us peace, then we will give you sons." And may that day dawn soon!

ALLA NAZIMOVA,
The Princess Theater. Jan. 17, 1917.

ALSO DUELLING.

"Our country, right or wrong," said Stephen Decatur in 1777. Mr. Decatur was also an ardent believer in duels and lost his life in one to a brother naval officer in 1820.

BEHIND THE RECRUITING POSTER.

Learned Professor, lecturing half a century from now: "Then in January, 1917, five privates of Battery E 2nd Field Artillery refused to clean out the ring of the regimental armory in the Bronx, New York, because they had received nothing to eat that day. Thereupon their commanding officer had them lashed to gun carriages with their arms stretched out and tied to the rims of the wheels. Moreover, he did not feed them."

Earnest student: "And do we list this military experience under the head of 'seeing the world,' or 'learning a trade'?"

WHY NOT?

"It must be made profitable to nations to dwell peacefully together and to assist in the development of one another, just as it was made profitable for the sovereign states that now form the Union. One of the means of making it profitable for them is the abolition of protective tariffs."

CHARLES ZUEBLIN.

WHY NOT?

Ernest Lavisse, the French historian, once said that though he took pleasure in seeing the French flag float high in the sky, he yearned for the day when "All the nations would put their banners together and, after having saluted the revered symbols for the last time, burn them in a joy fire."

WHY NOT?

"The chaos in Mexico is due to the variety of racial elements, woeful lack of general education, still greater lack of political experience, and rapacity and cupidity of the educated leaders." Thus reports a committee of American educators and publicists (Cincinnati, Jan. 7) which has studied Mexican conditions for a year and a half. "Why should not America intervene, not with arms, but by cooperating with Mexico in the establishment of free public non-sectarian schools?"

WHY NOT?

"The real enemy is established inside every country. It is the spirit of tyranny, greed, materialism, intolerance and militarism. It is the unfair distribution of wealth, the neglect of education, the idolization of riches. The victims of that enemy are to be found in the slums, in workhouses, in asylums and in prisons. Why not make ready to fight that enemy instead of wasting life and treasure in the slaughtering of men who are just as anxious as you are to turn their attention to the real evils that surround them?"

ARTHUR PONSONBY, M. P.

BOUNDED ON THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST.

In Flatland two-dimension people live in two-dimension space. They know North, South, East, and West, but not Upward or Downward. Their effectual prisons are made of lines they can neither see over nor pass through. Just as Spacelanders can't believe in "ghosts" who walk through solid walls, Flatlanders can't believe that anything has power to step occultly over a line.

Long ago we drew "imaginary" lines over our globe. Very recently—for nations are humanity's latest phase of group development—we put deep-printed lines over latitudes and longitudes, believing that lines can separate the nations of earth. Since then too many of us have lived in a spiritual Flatland, conceiving those across our crooked lines as hostages, enemies, or, at best, remote and unlike peoples.

The United States, a nation without a name, has been for over a century working out imperfectly an illuminating

experiment in group relationship. It has shown that sovereign states, passionately insistent on states' rights, loosely held together, separated by numberless little Flatlanderish lines, can nevertheless conceive those lines as highly imaginary. Railways cross them, unannoyed by state tariffs; Ohio is not fortified against Kentucky; armed Missourians do not patrol the Iowan border; a Pennsylvanian needs no passports for Oregon; and New York facily exchanges with California surpluses for lacks.

All this while its vision is turned within! But when the United States looks north to Canada, South to Mexico, East and West to the oceans, it becomes Flatlanderishly intent upon making larger group development and exchange as bitterly difficult as possible. Learning slowly within our own foolish little boundaries, the a b c of decent trust based on common needs, we call the lesson learned.

Nonetheless, in every Flatland nation, men and women have risen who know North, South, East, and West, and also Upward and Downward. With a clairvoyance as disturbing to your nationalistic Flatlander as the witches to Salem, they say boundary lines of nations are as imaginary as the equatorial line, that on the other side are neighbors and friends instead of strangers and enemies. Under the opprobrious name of Internationalists they have been shot, hung, imprisoned, and discredited.

But fast increasing numbers of them look on to-day at Nationalists conserving their boundary lines by destroying men. Internationalists are not conservators; they are destructionists. Incidentally they are not averse to saving millions of people alive. But they are planning earnestly to destroy geography.

EDNA KENTON.

EVERYTHING NOW BUT AN ENEMY.

General George A. Wingate, president of the New York Public Schools "Athletic" League, continues: "If there has been any lack of interest among the boys" (in military training) "it has been because we have not been able to provide them with rifles for drilling. I have had a communication from the Secretary of War setting forth a plan by which Krags may be issued to the Board of Education. The chief requirement of the department is that a proper place in which to store the guns be provided in each school."

And when the Stivers, Welsh and Slater acts were passed by the New York State Legislature last summer, some people actually believed that their authors were interested in the physical welfare of our children and our men!

Little rounds of bullets,
Little stacks of Krags
Let our militarist
Cats out of their bags.

"FOR GOD, FOR KING AND COUNTRY."

In Chelsea, England, a soldier's disablement pension is determined by fractions. He is divided into four parts. He is considered $\frac{3}{4}$ a man, $\frac{1}{2}$ a man, or $\frac{1}{4}$ a man. One man with wounds in 24 separate places, a knee-cap shot off, two toes of the other foot gone, an eye missing, the sight of the other impaired was still considered $\frac{1}{4}$ a man and so did not get a full disablement pension.

WHERE DO THE BANDITS DWELL?

Señora Marie Peon, having carried her \$10,000 pearl necklace safely through Mexico, missed it her first day in New York. Señora Peon accused no one and offered a reward of \$200 and no questions asked, for its return.

CHECKING UP THE COLONEL.

"We must play a great part in the world and... perform those deeds of blood, of valor, which above everything else bring national renown. By war alone can we acquire those virile qualities necessary to win in the stern strife of actual life."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"The assumption that virility or courage will disappear if not practised in the form of war implies an unproven and apparently false biological assumption."

JACQUES LOEB,

Head of Department of Experimental
Biology, Rockefeller Institute.

FOUR LIGHTS will not owe any of its lustre to the jewel of consistency. Each fortnightly issue will express the internationalist hopes of a new Board of three volunteer editors who assume full responsibility for its contents. If you do not like this number, be sure to get the next!

ANNE HERENDEEN
EDNA KENTON
ZOË BECKLEY

Editors of this Issue.



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