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Publication House of funk \& Wagnalls company, 18 AND 20 Astor place.

EDITORIAL ROOMS OF "THE VOICE."

New York,

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GILSON WILLETS,

February Rd, 1894.

Major General 0.0. Howard U.S.A.,
Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to submit with this
a few words as the result of the interview which you were kind enough to give me on the subject of the Next War from a military point of view, on Sunday morning, some weeks back. This is to go in "Current Literature" and will appear in the same style as the symposium over my name on page 118 of the February number, a copy of which I take pleasure in mailing you. The enclosed will appear in the March number.

If you desire to make any changes or corrections or additions to this paper il shall be very happy to comply with your wishes, if you will mail it back to me. Very respectfully,


Interview of General Howard with Gilson Willets, Special writer and Interviewer,

52 Lafayette Place, N. Y.City.
on
GLIMPSES INTO THE FUTURE: " THE NEXT WAR."

In my mind, "the next war" is only a possibility. All the tendencies of the time, it seems to me, are toward peace. I see this tendency first in a recent spread and enlargement of the Christion spirit; the spirit of brotherly love. Evidence? Well : there is the Christian Endeavor Societygathering their delegates here 30,000 strong last year. When 30,000 people coming from far and representing millions, spend their money for this purpose, a simple demonstration of peace and good will as I would call it, it means something of the true spirit of Christianity.

But this is not all. Thereare Christian Associations of Young Men and Young Women spread all over the country, and numbering other hundreds of thousands in their ranks. Then, there is the multidudinous, ubiquitous Salvation Army, ridicul ed the world over, but nevertheless doing immense good, bringing tender mercy and good fellowship down to multitudes who are most in need of such help. Ans see the wonderful growth of the Peace Societies in Americaand Europe ! They infuse everywhere in the hearts of men, women and children the spirit of their motto:" Peace on Earth." And while the tendency toward peace in Furope is not so decided, the spirit of kindliness an and brotherly love is growing even in Russi a and the other countri es, whose has tile methods have long prevailed. The opposite of this"piovement is anarchy. "Everything is wrong," cries the anarchist, " let us fight!" Why ? Because the anarchist thinkshe has everything, except an occas ional life, to gain by fighting, and nothing to lose. Disorder, confusion, and rebellion are what these misguided people want. They see in rioting and bloodshed a chance to gain something, or perhas indulge their bitter tastes. And these are the only people in our country who want war.

The social problem, of course, suggests a possibilit of a civil contest, or riotous internal war. But it calld happen only as the result of executive negligence, oryarelesness on the part of,our police, municipal and national. Our cities, the nesting places of anarchy, are now under police supervision and control, just as the nation is under the supervision of a national police force, the army and navy. Now, the control of a disorderly body in the city is a fair
test of the control of a disorderly body in the nation. The local riots have thus far been easily managed. But after all, the chief tendency toward peace rests in a broad diffusion of right education. The largest factor, the true and most important reason for peace lies in mens' minds. When men do thorough and right thinking, they stop fighting. What we are coming to by thinking and training is better and purer newspapers, and periodicals, and therefore a better and purer opinion, cleaner and healthier politics, and a higher, a nobler regard for one another. Of course, there are some in evey grouping of men who want to fight. But in a crowd of twenty teen, for instance, if two are for war and the other eighteen for peace, there will be peace. So it is with our nation to-day, and so it will be in the future. A peace majority large enough will control.
 Нनт
America wills not have war, so war we will not have.
Certainly I believe in using force when it is necessary. When nations are determined not to go to war, they sette disputes by arbitration. But there accasions when there is no time for arbritation. If a foreign ship sets to work shelling our city, we must force to stop it. If our flag is insulted, our just and important rights interfe red with, we ultimately use force to refless the wrong and maintain the right. Some questions are vital and caanot be arbitrated. These are the only conditions that appeaf to me now under which it is likely to be A Next War. War may possibly thas bedome a necessity, but the chances are nine to ten against it. Now as to the method and means of the warfare of the future. I will look as \%n forward as $I$ can within a ractical range, speaking, of course for the army only. Its purpose will habitually what it is now, police duty. As for, decreasing its size, I believe, on the contrary, that from the pre sent complement of 25,000 men it will be increased to 50,000. Why ? Because as long as people break laws we will need a police force, and I an sure I have not intimated that even the recent spread of a Christian spirit will stop law-breaking altogether. The, too a police force should of course be increased in proport ion to, the increase of population. The infantry will always remain the most important branch of the service, the artill ery next. The soldier's fire-arm of the future will probably be a perfected breech-loading instrment (big and little) that will do the most deadly work, when one man then can do the ghastly work of ten men now. If the army rifle in use to-day will drive a bullet through six men a mile away, what may not prophecy concerning the rifle of the future. Breech-loading cannon are beyond estimate. Cities must fall before them. Science is all the time inventing and constructing the new machinery of war fare, besides improving the old. And the more of ths's better.

Page 3.
Military science would seem to be a friend of war; on the contrary she is substantially a friend of peace. One gun thd $z$ will carry terrible death to an army or ship five or ten miles away bg simply turning a crank will make war more to be dreaded than a houndred thousand bows and arrows. Smokeless powder the Maxim gun dynamite, and all the electrical appliances, are also by reaction steps toward peace. The last but most importont consideration of all, the next war would be costly. The sum of money necessary to fit an army or navy will soon be so fabulous that nations will hesitate on this acc ount alone. The cost next to the sacrifice of life is one of the principle things, especially in a republic, and this bost together with the frightful loss of life and propertywill be the things upon which enlightened nations will reflect and re-reflect many days before they will declare war and fight eqch other.

Original sent February 10th 1894.

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WAR DEPARTMENT. adjutant generals office
Personal. WASHINGTON.

February 3, 1894.

My dear General:
The enclosed is preliminary to
the trial of an officer. It is desired that
the matter be kept as quiet as possible.


Hdqrs. Dept. of the East,
Governor's Island, Neat York.
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General Broker,
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