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EDITORIAL

CHINA A PACE-SETTER.

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WHEN George Washington, upon the completion of his second term, delivered his farewell address to the American people he recommended to them that they commend their institutions to other nations by example. There was something more far reaching than example in the instructions issued by President Yuan Shih-kai to the Minister of War to reduce the armed forces of China.

While western nations are holding Peace Congresses; while at these Peace Congresses the size of bullets and methods of land and sea warfare are being debated “looking to the minimizing of the horrors of war”; while, if disarmament is ever alluded to, it is alluded to with a bow and genuflexion such as are piously bestowed upon the Archangel as a preliminary for the practical work of feeding the Dragon; while in between Peace Congresses Presidents and Kings harangue their respective Legislatures on the excellencies of “Arbitration,” and even cause “Arbitration Treaties” to be drawn up and debated;—while such is the posture towards war by the “Western Civilization,” by “Christian Civilization,” a posture that is accentuated by the frenzied launching of ever more powerful dreadnoughts, China, Mongolian China, “Heathen Chinees” China, backward China, speaking through the mouth of her first President, calmly, unostentatiously, and in business style delivers to her Minister of War instructions to reduce the number of troops, and through him delivers to the world the message of Peace.

Within the last ten years the workingmen of New Zealand demanded “protection against the pauper labor of the United States.” Is it an event that possibility excludes—the event that the 450,000,000 and odd population of China call upon Western “Civilization” to disarm, or Eastern “Barbarism” will know the reason why?

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