

(W. P. L., #2)

people have less conviction and aggressiveness for what we call sacrifice for principle sake. Second, on the other hand the disinclination of people to go to war may come from the fact that civilization has advanced far enough that people consider war barbarous, needless waste and destruction and unchristian, all of which it is.

Certainly, in America at least, we are not yet aroused on either patriotic or spiritual ideals necessary to carry us into great sacrifice in a great war. I do not think it is fair to say a majority of the people are definitely opposed to our leaders who are going to war, but they are wishing and hoping that the leaders are wrong and can avoid war. I think very few are convinced war can now be avoided. If we go to war, we will go unconvinced as to a definite thing for which we fight so far as any patriotic or spiritual ideals are concerned. If this is true, our nation is facing a very great catastrophe because, win or lose, we lose anyhow.

I am sure a great many people are thinking along the lines that we are in a great trend of history. The great trends of history were never very clearly understood by the participants, not even by the leaders. It seems that men cannot in their generation know fully what is going on in times of great historic trends. If history teaches anything, it is that the fundamental philosophy of the Christian religion has successfully, though slowly and with some backsets, followed a dominant course. I am thinking that, too deep for any of us to grasp convincingly, there may be a trend now which the Christian philosophy is forcing. For years enough to make it somewhat definite within your life time and mine broader and more liberal rights of the common men have been established. In spite of all the evil excesses which lead us to question progress in our generation, I think progress has prevailed. Millions of human beings now have a higher standard of education, a higher grade of general intelligence, more personal comfort, more influence as citizens, broader mental and spiritual outlook than were enjoyed by comparable millions at any time in the past.