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MR. BRIGHT ON THE UNITED STATES.

At a public meeting of the Marsden Mechanics' Institution, at Manchester, on the 14th of December, Mr. Bright, M. P., in the course of a speech, deprecating the war, said :

Many of you have relatives or friends in America. That young nation has a population about equal to ours in these islands. It has a great internal and external commerce. It has more tonnage in shipping than we have. It has more railroads than we have. It has more newspapers than we have. It has institutions more free than we have — that horrid slavery of the South excepted — and which is no fruit of its institutions, but an unhappy legacy of the past. It has also a great manufacturing interest in different branches. That is the young giant whose shadow ever grows, and there is the true rival of this country.

How do we stand or start in the race? The United States Government, including all the governments of all the sovereign states, raises in taxes probably from £12,000,000 to £15,00,000 sterling in the year. England this year will raise in taxes and loans, and will expend nearly £100,000,000. This population must raise and will spend, probably £80,000,000 within this year more than that population will raise and spend, and in America there is far less poverty and pauperism than in England. Can we run this race on these terms and against these odds? Can we have to be as well off as America if the products of our industry are thus swept away by the tax-gatherer, and in the vain scheme of saving Europe from imaginary dangers?

Can poverty be lessened among us, can education spread, can the brutality of so many of our population be uprooted, can all or anything that good men look for, come to us, while the fruits of our industry, the foundation of all social and moral good, are squandered in this manner? Pursue the phantom of military glory for ten years, and expend in that time a sum equal to all the visible property of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and then compare yourself with the United States of America, and where will you be? Pauperism, crime, and political anarchy are the legacies we are preparing for our children, and there is no escape for us unless we change our course, and resolve to disconnect ourselves from the policy which tends incessantly to embroil us with the nations of the continent of Europe.

THE SAFE DEFENCE.

"I cannot agree with you in the extent to which you carry the peace principle," said a highly respected friend to a lecturer who had denounced *all wars*. I highly appreciate the sincerity of your zeal; I revere your exalted Christian principles; I am delighted with the eloquence with which you have brought them out; but I cannot come fully up to them. I am a man of peace; I deprecate war, as a tremendous evil; there are few wars which I could justify; yet, I think there are some. If all the dearest rights and interests of the people are put in jeopardy by the unjust invasion of a hostile power, it seems to me to be a sacred duty to defend them by force. Of course such an event must be prepared for, and it is therefore very unwise to omit all military preparation. If we show ourselves entirely defenceless we shall soon be trodden under foot by the overreaching ambition of foreign powers.

"Then," said the lecturer, "you think that foreign nations are deterred from invading our rights, by the fear of our military defences?"

"Most certainly! in what other way are they prevented?"

"Do you think that our present military and naval forces are sufficient to cope with either of the first-rate powers of Europe?"

"I do not. It is not our policy to keep up such burthensome military establishments as they find it necessary to do."

"If you were at the head of our government, would you be prevented from enforcing any claim of your country you considered just, on a foreign nation, by fear of an armament as small in comparison to your own, as ours now is in comparison to one of theirs? Would any American shrink from supposed duty with such a fear?"

"It would not certainly be the fear of such an inferior armament which would prevent any of us from enforcing a just claim, but I would forego it from principle and policy, rather than resort to war to obtain it. As before intimated, I would wage no war but one strictly defensive; but for that I would be prepared."

"Good! And now let me ask, why should it be thought that other nations are more cowardly or more unjust than our own? If we should not be deterred by their supposed inferior armaments, why should they be in fear of our armament, acknowledged to be insufficient? If we would not make war, even for a just claim, which our safety did not require, why should we suppose — in a similar case — they would make war upon us? If they, then, are actuated by the same sentiments as we are, what security do we derive from military establishments?"

"I do not believe that other nations are restrained from oppressing us by sense of justice — they have not shown such a sense in their wars on heathen countries; if therefore we have not a military power sufficient to make our rights respected, let us have a greater one, and not throw away that we now possess."

"Has our government shown any greater sense of justice in our treatment of the Indian tribes, Mexico and Central America? If you increase our military establishments — at the cost of immense taxation, so as to meet those of the most powerful civilized nations, what security have you that this government, in the pride of strength — will not become an aggressor on others, and thus draw on us the very wars it is armed to prevent? Again, what security have we for our own rights and liberties under so formidable a government? You say if we are defenceless we shall be "trodden under foot" by foreign powers. On the other hand, if we arm our government so as adequately to prevent this, we shall be "trodden under foot" by that government. This is the invariable experience of nations, and you will not be weak enough to suppose that our republican *forms* will be any safeguard"

The whole of this reliance on military preparations is a childish appeal to the fears of the faithless and proud, a cowardly want of faith in ourselves. We are faithless of the moral dignity of unwavering justice. We are faithless of the all-subduing power of forbearing kindness, as omnipotent among nations as among individuals. We are faithless of the promises of a forgiving Saviour. Let us dare to love and we need fear no hate. Let us trust in justice, in the gratitude of the human heart, in the voice of peace from heaven, and we shall be safe. The precepts of the Gospel are our commission; the throne of God is our rampart. — *Communication to the Citizen.*