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There was not a boy of the age of fourteen or fifteen in that town who did not either discuss with his friends or feel under his jacket the personal bearings of the questions, 'What should I do if I should ever be challenged to fight a duel?' 'If anybody called you a liar, would you challenge him?' It was a fundamental idea which, I think, was at that time implanted in the minds of all boys. They felt that they could not get out of the moral obligation to fight a duel, if they were called liar or coward. Now, what has become of all that sentiment, not only in Connecticut, but throughout the country, even in Memphis? It has all gone, gone in the direction in which we believe that the idea will go that all troubles between nations must be settled by murder."

### The Suffering Doukhobortsi.

We call attention to the circular letter printed on another page and signed by William Dean Howells, William Lloyd Garrison, Rev. George Dana Boardman and others, asking for funds in behalf of the persecuted Doukhobortsi in Russia. Some time ago our columns contained an extended account of the sufferings and hardships inflicted upon the Doukhobortsi,—a Christian, peaceable, industrious people—because of their unwillingness to do military service. Since that time the Russian government has consented to allow them to emigrate from the country at their own expense.

The friends of peace in England, especially the members of the Society of Friends, have interested themselves in the matter and have subscribed large sums of money to assist the Doukhobortsi in emigrating. A considerable body of the sufferers have already reached Cyprus where their support has been provided for, as required by the English government, till the year 1900. But several thousand of them still remain in Russia. They can do nothing for themselves. Two or three years ago their homes were broken up. They were banished from their native province, and carried into the region of the Caucasus, where it was hoped by the Russian officials that they might be forced to give up their Christian belief that war and military service of every kind is wrong. But in spite of distress and imprisonment and exile they have remained faithful, and knowledge of what they are enduring for conscience' sake has gradually made its way throughout the civilized world. A few of them are living in exile in England and are doing all in their power to secure relief for their suffering brethren. Those who have attempted to enable them to get out of Russia hope to get funds enough immediately to bring those who still remain to Cyprus. The purpose is finally to bring as many of them as possible to the United States and Canada and locate them in some of the more thinly settled districts of the West,

where, after being started, they will be amply able to take care of themselves. A generous response to the Committee's call for funds ought to be immediately made. The rigors of the Russian winter have already set in, and there must be great suffering, as during the past two winters, unless help reaches them without delay.

We understand that a movement is on foot to try to secure from the Czar a decree of clemency for these people. He has probably known very little about them. When their condition comes to be fully known to him, it seems impossible that the author of the recent peace manifesto, which has given so much hope to the world, should refuse to revoke all decrees against these good citizens and allow them to remain in their own country and pursue their callings in peace.

### The Peace Treaty.

The Commissioners at Paris have practically finished their work. Spain has agreed, under a solemn protest against the course forced upon her, to give up the sovereignty of the Philippines, and to accept for "improvements" in the islands the sum of twenty million dollars. Cuba and Porto Rico she had already surrendered, in the protocol, and also an island in the Ladrone group. There are some minor items of the treaty touching the Carolines, cable and coaling stations and an "open door" policy in the Philippines. By the time this reaches our readers, the treaty, momentous beyond any of modern times, will have been formally prepared and signed; and the Commissioners will be on their way home.

It was a foregone conclusion what the treaty in the main would be. All that has been done in two months of demanding and yielding might have been done, as we said in the beginning, in a few days at Washington without any commission. The United States government has done what it started out to do. Spain has had no choice; the negotiations have been simply a slow way of getting an ultimatum accepted by her. She has been helpless and our government has told her that the only possible interpretation of the protocol was what we wanted it to mean.

The judgment of all Europe outside of England, and, if the truth were known, in a good deal of England, is that the United States has pushed her advantage to the extreme and shown no regard for generosity. The knowledge in Europe of the powerful imperialistic sentiment prevailing in this country strengthens the conviction that our government in its severe demands upon Spain has proceeded as a self-seeking conqueror rather than as a brother in the family of nations. Our "humanitarian" war is, from its actual results so far, being interpreted not unjustly as really a war of conquest and national