

**EDITORIAL PAGE**

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**PREPAREDNESS**  
By Robert E. Peale

We are living in evil times. As bad as war is, conditions that led to it are worse. Militarism and commercialism have stamped the dollar mark on everything, not excepting patriotism and religion. We spell patriotism with a P, A, Y, and our souls are saved at so much a head, with an emphasis on the head. Even the women are losing their heart in the ballot box. The spirit of the age is a woman in breeches and a man in pants.

Our God is a goody-goody who has swallowed the world, the flesh and the devil and has bridged over the great gulf between heaven and hell so that Lazarus and Dives can be half-fellows-well-met. The Hardshell has become softshel and Calvinism has lost its spinal cord. I am a Hardshell, Missionary Baptist. The anti-missionary Baptist is all shell and no heart. The omissionary Baptist is all pulp and no shell.

Too many of us are living on the experience of the fathers, because we've got none of our own. We believe the doctrine of the New Birth but know nothing of the reality.

As no man should practice law who is an anarchist, and no man should practice medicine who does not believe in the reality of bodily ills, and no man should be a merchant who does not believe in the acquisition of private property, and no man should be soldier who does not believe in the right of the government to use force, so no man should be a citizen who does not believe in preparedness. I believe in preparedness along the whole line of life for the individual and the nation.

I am a militant Christian, first, last and all the time. To be sure, Christ is the Prince of Peace and Peace is the end of his mission but we've got to fight long and well to get it. Christ came to send a sword because this was one of the means to the end for which he came. He came to send fire because this was the only way to destroy or burn up the chaff. He came not to destroy as an end, but to fulfil. And yet, He must destroy the works of the devil before he can fill full the whole world with His glory.

The peace that Mr Bryan preaches is a peace without law. It assumes that we as a nation are not under law, but under grace, which is not true. It assumes that our government is Christian, which is not so. It assumes that love is the motive in politics when

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business is the spirit of the age.

Mr. Bryan's kingdom of peace is not here and not there, and the Master repudiates this and says that it is within you. There is more hell than heaven in our country and we unto us if we ignore the fact, Hell is building all around us and our country will burn like an oven if we are not prepared to fight the flames. A state of anarchy exists in Mexico and we have got to help them set their house in order or be the prey of their incendiaries. Europe, after this war will be a horde of ravening wolves, and unless our defenses are strong we shall be devoured. Not only so, but South America and China will be looking to us for protection. And it is not enough for us to hold our own; the strong must bear the infirmities of the weak. These are troublous times and we need to be a nation of citizen soldiers for our own defense and the protection of our neighbors.

Besides, our internal conditions demand military organization. Militarism is not the cause of the war; but greed for gain. "What will thou not compel mortal hearts to do, thou cursed hunger for gold!" Materialism and commercial greed are eating the soul out of us. The world still needs a crucified and risen Savior and it is damned with out Him. We've got to die to live. Wealth has never made an individual, man or nation, but the love of it has been the downfall of all men and nations that have gone down.

In Mr. Bryan's speech against preparedness, his whole argument is based on selfishness. Take care of your property and save your skin at any cost is his speech in a nutshell. His doctrine is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The Master says he that saves his life shall lose it and he that loses his life shall save it. Remember that whatever is not sacrificial is satanic.

Mexico will never be saved until there is some innocent bloodletting. Blood—the giving of life, is the only remedy for sin. Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Only the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin; but all innocent blood is His blood. I am willing to give my blood, such as it is, and the blood of my children to save my country. I am about sixty-four years old, but if my country needs me in her army of preparedness, I stand ready to go and hereby volunteer as a high private for immediate service.

In conclusion let me say a word about the kind of preparedness I believe in. I believe in universal good roads at the expense of the government, in a military feature in all our public schools, in a navy second only to Great Britain and in a citizen army of 500,000 men with the best equipment in the world.

**A HARD LEARNED LESSON**  
The Advance believes in thrift. We have learned to believe in it in the hard school of experience. Time was when the editor of this newspaper could not easily be brought to listen to one who took his text on any phrase of thrift. Earning a salary not insufficient but adequate to his needs, he was rather proud of the fact that he seldom gave thought to what he was earning or what he was spending or what he was saving. All of this seemed sordid. The only thing which was to work and to serve.

We have come to know now that for him to have learned early in the lesson of thrift, would probably have added days to his life, strength to his body and in other ways have multiplied his usefulness and efficiency.

Thrift, of course, does not mean the mere saving of money. Sometimes it may mean spending it, but always turning its career planning to eliminate waste—waste of money, waste of time, waste of energy, waste of resources. Samuel Johnson called thrift the daughter of prudence and the sister of Temperance and the mother of Liberty. A thrifless individual can never save the world, no matter how unselfish he may be. Bravery and courage alone do not make a great general or even a great fighter. Along with bravery and courage there must be ability to count the cost, to conserve energy, to foresee and provide for the future—all of which is thrift.

The Advance would be glad if the young men of Elizabeth City could learn thrift at less cost than we have done. And that is why we throw aside no opportunity to say something that may come in teaching them this lesson.



Thomas P. Sale, 55, warden of the North Carolina penitentiary at Raleigh died of Apoplexy Friday a half hour after he had superintended the electrocution of two negroes. Physicians who witnessed the executions declared the warden appeared agitated as he unstrapped the bodies of the negroes from the electric chair after death had occurred. Mr. Sale retired to his office and shortly afterward became unconscious. He had expired when physicians reached him.

Jeff Dorsett and Ed. Walker, the negroes executed, were convicted on circumstantial evidence of the murder in Guilford County last year of John Swain, an aged farmer in an attempted robbery.

Prison authorities said Walker, prior to leaving his cell for the death chamber, confessed that he shot Swain. It was the first double electrocution to take place in this State.

The Trustees of the University of North Carolina, in semi-annual session at Raleigh have received the annual report of President E. K. Graham, showing a year of remarkable progress. The registration January 1 was 1,823, a gain of over three hundred the past year. The report shows that 93.5 per cent of the students registered are from North Carolina and nine-tenths of the counties are represented.

Dr. Charles Lee Raper, head of the department of economics in the University of North Carolina, and rural investigator for the United States Department of Agriculture, has accepted an invitation to confer in framing a new taxing system in New York.

Dr. Raper is ranked as one of the taxation experts of the country. He is author of a book on taxation and a book on railway transportation. He has studied the system of taxation abroad and extensively in the United States.

During the past year 5,000 farmers attended dairy schools which were held in various parts of the State.

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