

of the churches, shall recognize the nature of that failure in the betrayal of the spiritual cause of the ascent of man of which the churches have been guilty.

The Nation

## GENEVA AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

BY A GENEVAN

DURING the debate which took place in our country over the entrance of Switzerland into the League of Nations, the position of Geneva as capital of the League attracted much attention. In addition to the many approving voices which declared their appreciation of the honor done to our city and our nation, there were heard, it must be confessed, certain adverse criticisms. Those who thus animadverted asked if Geneva, in thus becoming the capital of the federation of civilization, did not risk certain moral and political dangers, even the danger of becoming denationalized.

It is wise to consider this problem frankly. It is well that all Switzerland should know how the immense majority of Genevans regard the honor which has fallen to our city.

Let us begin by saying that in accepting the charge of the League of Nations, Geneva does not for an instant separate her destiny from that of her own land. It is to a Swiss city that the Powers have entrusted the League; it is to all Switzerland that a compliment has been paid. Let no one dream, then, of setting Geneva and the nation at odds, or believe that the city, in becoming the capital of the League, can be morally or politically separated from the confederation in which she has found happiness.

In regard to the advantages and dis-

advantages of having the League at Geneva, let us make haste to say that we are not seduced by the prospect of material gain. If the choice of Geneva can assure our city a fine economic development, if it can bring to pass certain developments to which we have all along looked forward, it can also mean a genuine danger to our people; it can bring a rise in the cost of living, the scarcity of lodging and other troubles. Certain Genevans may find the League means profit; the majority of townspeople, however, have no illusions on the matter.

Thus it is not material matters which have called forth the joyous manifestations of our authorities and our people. The sentiment which dominates us is one of pride and responsibility. Of pride, we say, because the choice of the Powers was not wholly influenced by the central situation or the beauty of Geneva; the choice is rather a homage to our history, to our institutions, to the works to which the name of Geneva and Switzerland have been attached. When the founders of the Society of Nations wished to build a new organization for peace, they felt that at Geneva this new organization would find a favorable site and a sympathetic atmosphere. It is this confidence in us which is the source of our pleasure.

At the same time this confidence inspires us with a lively sentiment of responsibility. We must show ourselves worthy of the honor. The choice of the Powers will impose new duties upon leaders, citizens, and the political and social centres. We must not become puffed up with pride, for a boastful attitude will be the end of us. We shall do better, if we ask ourselves if we are really worthy of our past and the honor done us. Instead of making us lazy, the thought of being the centre

of a great new organization should be for us a salutary stimulant.

It is not because Geneva is the capital of the League that Genevans believe in the League of Nations. It is rather because we have long believed in the League that Geneva has been chosen. We believe in it because a peaceful grouping of states corresponds to our political, moral, and social ideal. We shall do all in our power to make the future League a veritable federation of the peoples who compose it. It is not a matter of indifference that the League should have its offices in a land as democratic as Switzerland and in a city which has been the cradle of modern democracy.

In entering confidently into the League (in spite of the imperfections of the treaty of Paris), Switzerland, instead of breaking with her history, remains faithful to her traditional mission which is that of a common friend of peoples and nations. This mission she sought during the war to accomplish upon the field of charity. But the task before her to-day is greater still.

Let us, then, attach ourselves, not only in Geneva, but also in all Switzerland to this task with real confidence. It was the political and moral side of the League which made Genevans acclaim the choice of their city for its headquarters. Let us hope that it will be thus understood in all Switzerland; that every citizen will strive to create the favorable atmosphere which the creators of the new world have come to us to find. A brave internationalism, which should henceforth sway the relations of peoples, should not be understood as a negation, but as the harmonious and orderly development of the best side of patriotism. Love of country cannot be in opposition to the advancement of humanity.

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## DEVELOPMENT OF ANGLO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

BY W. L. GEORGE

It is difficult to consider nations without pity and cynicism. One is minded, with Anatole France, thus to sum up the history of men: 'They were born, they suffered, and they died.' But quietist philosophy fits not nations akin to dogs asleep in their kennels, and waking only to bite their neighbors. Before the war, most Britons thought that Americans were money-making machines, gladly hen-pecked by their wives, in politics corrupt, and in law fantastic. On the other hand, many Americans thought that the British understood nothing, that their idea of machinery was represented by the wooden plough of the Chinese, and that their views of government had remained unaltered since the days of Charles II.

There hid in these beliefs just that sediment of truth which promotes error. The two peoples were placing each other under the microscope, and exaggerating each other's national characteristics into antagonistic differences. That must end; the only way for us to look at America is this: a nation has not achieved a united population of a hundred millions, a trade of eight hundred millions or so, founded universities in every state, produced Lincoln, Whitman, Wilson, Henry James, without having in its composition some greatness. And the American must seek a greatness in the spirit which somehow (never mind how) has made the British Empire. So much for the spirit. A common enemy has brought the peoples together, closer than would have a common ideal; but there is still too much of the old snapping and snarling, too much wrangling because America is getting new trade,