

LIARS and FOOLS.

Man will not listen to reason except at the point of a bayonet. This is the gigantic, hellish lie, on the strength of which the nations of Europe are engaged in cutting each others' throats.

It began with the professional liars, the Statesmen. From time immemorial, Statesmen have sold their souls to the rich and powerful, and have made a professional study of the art of lying, in order to defend and maintain all kinds of robbery and injustice, by which the rich were made richer and the poor poorer.

Our present Statesmen are such consummate masters of the art of lying, that though the rich are richer to-day, and the poor are poorer than when the "Liberal" Government came into power eight years ago,—yet nevertheless, the "Liberals" have gained the continued support of the people by persuading them that they were somehow getting benefits!

Statesmen would not dare to lie like that if they did not know that the common people are Fools. Therefore, O Fools, listen, and become wise!

That the poor are poorer is proved by the fact that prices have gone up, so that their wages will buy less.

That the rich are richer is shewn by the fact that every year they pay more income-tax.

The rich buy the labour of the poor, paying them wages for it. The rich sell goods to the poor, which the poor pay for out of their wages. The rich don't pay a fair wage, and they don't charge a fair price. That is why they are always rich, and the poor are always poor. The poor make the wealth and the rich take it.

The only way out is to fix fair wages and prices. It should be the first business of Statesmen to do this. But being the paid Liars of the rich, they pretend they can't do it. When they are forced to

make a show of doing it, they are utterly unfair. It is their *business* to be unfair. One man is not as good as another, in their eyes. They don't give equal pay for equal work. A rich man's life, and a rich man's work, are supposed to be worth more than a poor man's.

Are you satisfied, O Fools, that the Statesman is a professional Liar? I think you are! But do you know that lying leads to murder? That's what I want to make clear.

The average working man is killed twenty years sooner than he would naturally die. He is killed by overwork and under-feeding, by overcrowding, by exposure, by poisonous trades, by dangerous trades, by the neglect of safeguards, and by being hurried and driven until he ceases to be careful.

All these murderous evils spring from the lie that wealth is more important than life. You cannot serve Truth and Mammon.

Just now, however, all the slower modes of killing are forgotten, in view of the wholesale murder that is taking place on the battle-fields of Europe.

Man will not listen to reason, say the Liars, except at the point of a bayonet. Therefore, don't argue, kill!

Beloved Fools, would it assist you to understand me if I hit you on the head with a club? Would you be more ready to receive the Truth if I lashed it into you with a whip?

Do you think Germany will be more kindly disposed towards you, after you have killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of men, and brought her to ruin?

Did not Germany beat and humiliate France, forty-four years ago, and has that victory of brutality made Germany any safer? Was it worth while?

Don't you know, my dear Fools, that if you hadn't got a big navy, and didn't believe in fighting, Germany would never attack you? For why?

Because, my dear Fools, Germany is filled with just such another lot of Fools as you are. The German Fools are told that you are ready to fight *them*, and that is why they are ready to fight *you*.

If you were thoroughly ashamed of the cut-throat business—as you ought to be,—and if you determined to chuck it, the German Fools would chuck it, too. They don't really *believe* in it, now, but their lying Statesmen tell them it is necessary to protect themselves from *you*; and their Statesmen point to your big navy, and your warlike (i.e. cut-throat) spirit, and they say, "You see, the English are itching to cut you up."

And the German Fools say, "Let us do unto the English as they would like to do to us; and let us do it first." And then the fat is in the fire.

Dear, stupid Fools! Why don't you get out of your cut-throat uniforms, and break up your battleships, and say to the German Fools, "Sorry we looked so much like pirates; but the fact is, our Statesmen persuaded us to play at being pirates, and we forgot you wouldn't understand."

And the German Fools would reply, "Well, really, now, Nietzsche, and Bernhardt, and Treitschke, and Bismarck told us that brigandage was still the road to success, and fame, and security; and we thought they must be right, because you seemed to believe it too; but, hang it all! if *you've* chucked it, and are going to act square, we aren't going to take advantage of a pal. Come and have a drink, and we'll soon settle accounts with the Liars."

That, my precious Fools, is about what would happen, if you listened to the Truth, instead of to paid, professional, expert Liars, who have always lived by robbing you; and who want you to be robbers and cut-throats, even as they are.

You do honest work for a living, and have no need to swagger, and steal, and lie. Why do you listen to Statesmen?

Was your England, our England, all that we love and trust, built up by wars and jealousies? Or did it arise out of the honest and kindly hearts, and generous labour, of her common people?

To you, O blundering, thoughtless, well-meaning Fools, I make appeal. I am tired of seeing you sent to be torn with shrapnel, in the service of a Lie.

If you had listened to Christ—but how should you know anything about Christ? Have not the Parsons and the Preachers kept Christ from you, and denied His words? Are they not hounding you on to slay the poor foolish Germans, honest workers like your-

selves, who have been deceived by false teachers, even as you have?

The Parsons and Preachers are mostly in the pay of the rich, and these are the words of Christ which apply to them:—

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruits ye shall know them.”

“They are of their father the devil, and the lusts of their father it is their will to do. He was a *murderer* from the beginning, and stood not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.”

Haven’t you had enough of lying and murder? Will you not heed the Prince of Peace, and put your confidence in the better way? You need fear nothing, if you will disarm. Is vengeance more to be desired than forgiveness; or have you yourselves done nothing for which you will need to be forgiven?

How long will you suffer yourselves to remain the dupes and tools of scheming politicians and generals? It rests with you to put a stop to their game.

Insist on an armistice for discussing terms of peace. Inflict no hard terms on Germany, for her people have paid for their folly with their lives. Even as you have. Insist on putting an end to the whole mad and miserable business. You are *not* cut-throats,—you are nothing worse than Fools. Be wise! Be gentle! Be sane!

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