

Levi Pennington

People

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1940

## The Quaker Pacifist

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The Quaker Pacifist.  
By Levi T. Pennington.

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You call me coward, yet I dare to stand  
Before a world war-mad, hate-crazed, blood-drunk,  
And to defy that spirit which has sunk  
Mankind to beast and fiend at war's command.  
You call me coward, you who dare to face  
Your enemy, eye to eye and sword to sword.  
My Heart resents it. Coward's and ugly word,  
But I must bear it for a little space.  
Let answer to your own soul. Would you dare,  
If conscience bade you, to defy your foes,  
To grieve your friends, your naked breast to bare  
To the world's hate? Are you so brave? Who knows?

You call me fool, because I dare to trust  
In those great forces on which Christ relied;  
Because I think the path the Crucified  
Chose for Himself the one His followers must,  
If they would be His followers, choose today;  
Because I dare to trust that Faith and Love,  
Good Will and Truth and Justice will yet prove  
Themselves more mighty than the powers that slay.  
But answer to your own soul. Has your plan  
Of meeting hate with hate and blows with blows  
Brought such great happiness and peace to man  
That you should boast? Are you so wise? Who knows?

World peace a dream? It can be made a fact.  
The world's not ready for it? Make it ready.  
Face to the front, with open eyes and steady.  
The faith of those who love their brothers, backed  
By God's great power, whose love embraces all,  
Will work its miracle, now as of old.  
Then dare to face the future and be bold.  
Before your faith shall crumble every wall  
Of every Jericho that Hate has made  
And War defended. Love shall conquer blows.  
Then let us face the future, unafraid.  
When Peace? When we are ready. And He knows.

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