

In response to the presentation of the medal, Mr. CARNEGIE said: MR. PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADORS AND MINISTERS OF OUR SISTER REPUBLICS AND OF OTHER NATIONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: My entrance to public service was upon the invitation of President HARRISON, through Secretary of State BLAINE, the originator of the first Pan American Conference. I was a member of that body and sat for the first time among representatives of other lands. No wonder that it created an impression upon me which has increased with the years. No wonder that both head and heart have responded to the great work of drawing together all the Republics in bonds of peace and good will.

I was sitting at my desk in the Highlands of Scotland last autumn when a telegram was handed to me, which I opened and read without seeming quite to grasp the meaning of the words. I was stunned. Was I dreaming? "Could such things be and overcome us like a summer's cloud without our special wonder?" My hands went to my forehead and I bent my head to the desk. Slowly the truth developed and established itself and I began to realize what it all meant. The telegram told me of the action of the Pan American Conference at Buenos Aires awarding me this medal. Truly, my friends, I never before felt so completely overwhelmed and crushed as it dawned upon me that the honor which the conference had voted to confer was without parallel; 160 millions of people, forming 21 sovereign nations, bestowing upon poor me an honor the like of which had never before been bestowed upon a human being. Still ashamed to stand up, I felt as if I should like to sink into the ground, conscious that I could never have the audacity to accept it, but as days passed; HAMLET's words came to me—"Treat the poor players not after their deserts, but after your own honor and dignity. The poorer their merits, the larger will be your bounty." I was indeed in the condition of the poor players. The Republics had followed HAMLET's advice and treated me not after my deserts but after their own honor and dignity, and this thought resigned me to my fate. To-day as I stand before you and receive this medal of medals, which has no fellow, my first thoughts again begin to crowd upon me and I am again abashed. My friends, all I can promise you is that although I can never hope to feel that I have deserved such honor, I shall try my best so to live that your people who have thus exalted me beyond my deserts will never have cause to blush for any act of mine.

Mr. Chairman and Ambassadors of our sister Republics, addressing you in this hall a year ago, the President expressed how ardently our Republic longed for the reign of peace between the 21 sister Republics, stating "We 21 Republics can not afford to have any two or three of us quarrel." Thus, the President's first invitation to establish the reign of peace was very properly made to you. Much has taken place since then. He recently offered the olive branch of peace to any one strong nation, and it was instantly accepted by the other branch of our English-speaking race with such enthusiasm, not by one but by all parties, that to-day we have every reason to believe war as a means of settling disputes between the two branches of our race will soon become a crime of the past. May I, addressing through you your respective Governments, and returning thanks for the great honor conferred upon me this day, accompany these with the expression of the ardent wish of my heart that prompt action should now be taken by the 21 Republics to establish the reign of peace among ourselves by adopting our President's policy of submitting all disputes to arbitration. As the words spoken by me in the first American conference expressed this desire, so my last words to you, gentlemen, representing your respective countries, are the same. May the sister Republics become sisters indeed, members, as it were, of one peaceful family, resolved

... the steps, should such arise, to endanger their peaceful relations. Perhaps, when the foremost and most successful apostle of peace has concluded his first compact of peace, abolishing war within the wide boundaries of our English-speaking race, he will next turn again to our sister Republics, begging them to draw closer to each other, and by suitable treaties covering all disputes render it impossible that our sisterly, peaceful relations can ever again be disturbed. My earnest prayer and hope is that my life may be spared until I see us all participating and rejoicing in each other's prosperity, united in the bonds of everlasting peace and good will.

Mr. President, I can not close without at least attempting to express my deep sense of the great honor conferred upon me and mine by your august presence to-day.

President TAFT then spoke as follows: