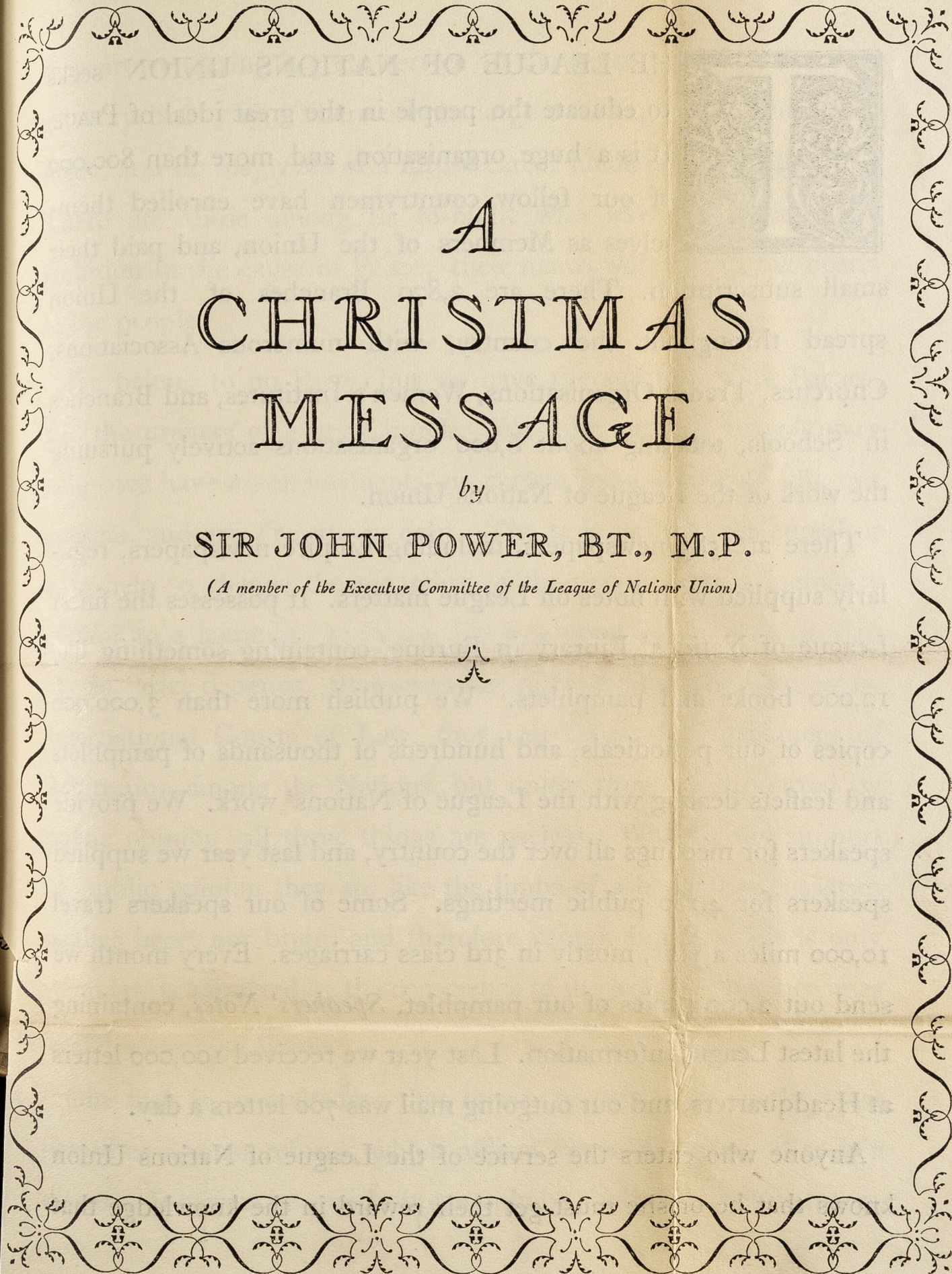


A  
CHRISTMAS  
MESSAGE

by

SIR JOHN POWER, BT., M.P.

*(A member of the Executive Committee of the League of Nations Union)*





THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION seeks to educate the people in the great ideal of PEACE. It is a huge organisation, and more than 800,000 of our fellow countrymen have enrolled themselves as Members of the Union, and paid their small subscription. There are 2,870 Branches of the Union spread throughout the country, with numerous Associations, Churches, Trades Organisations, Women's Institutes, and Branches in Schools, totalling about 6,000 organisations actively pursuing the work of the League of Nations Union.

There are 585 newspapers, including Empire newspapers, regularly supplied with notes on League matters. It possesses the finest League of Nations' Library in Europe, containing something like 12,000 books and pamphlets. We publish more than 3,000,000 copies of our periodicals, and hundreds of thousands of pamphlets and leaflets dealing with the League of Nations' work. We provide speakers for meetings all over the country, and last year we supplied speakers for 4,180 public meetings. Some of our speakers travel 10,000 miles a year, mostly in 3rd class carriages. Every month we send out 2,000 copies of our pamphlet, *Speakers' Notes*, containing the latest League information. Last year we received 100,000 letters at Headquarters, and our outgoing mail was 700 letters a day.

Anyone who enters the service of the League of Nations Union knows that he or she must get their reward in the knowledge that

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they are rendering a great service to the cause of Peace, for they get very little pay. There are no large salaries, no fortunes to be made, and no rosy vista of a future career holds out alluring hopes. There are those among us to-night who have sacrificed every ambition in the cause of Peace; their names will live in the hearts of the people.

We belong to no Party, but we have the support of all Parties, and the prayers of every Church. We exist entirely on voluntary help—we have no endowments, no certain income flowing into our pockets, and are £10,000 in debt. The task we have set ourselves is to help to change the mentality of the people from a mentality of War to a mentality of Peace, for it is upon public opinion that World Peace depends. Statesmen can make treaties, they can create International Courts of Law, they can create the machinery of Arbitration among the Nations, but unless they are supported by public opinion all these things are useless. Without the support of public opinion they are like the limbs of a body that possesses neither heart nor brain, and therefore cannot function. It is only when law is animated by the conscience of the people that it becomes a vital and living thing.

Our task is to overcome that human inertia, that apathy, that prejudice against reform, which afflicts everyone of us. War is a disease. It cannot be cured: it can only be abolished. Let us recog-

nise the fact. In four years 950,000 of our people laid down their lives, and multitudes upon multitudes were wounded and bear their scars to-day. Millions of money are spent in erecting huge hospitals and schools for the prevention of disease. Hundreds of thousands are freely given for their endowment. Will no man endow the cause of the prevention of War? We ask for money to prevent the disease of War, that scourge that creates poverty, misery, despair, and still more disease. We have much to encourage us; we make great progress. General Smuts once said: 'the tents are struck, humanity is on the move.' It is true. The vast plain of life is alive with humanity, struggling, groping, but always slowly moving towards the light. On the body of a dead Australian soldier, who came 9,000 miles to lay down his life, were found the lines:

' I saw the powers of darkness put to flight,  
I saw the morning break.'

In laying down their lives for us, he and his fellows placed a sacred duty upon every one of us—that we shall see to it that the Morning of Peace shall break upon the earth.

Make it possible for us to continue our work and even to increase our efforts. Any contribution will be welcome. We ask for your help, your sympathy, your encouragement, for our task is not done. After nineteen centuries of Christianity it is still necessary to preach

' PEACE ON EARTH: GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN.'