A Call to National Repentance

By the Rev. Prof. James M. Coleman

This war in Europe was not caused by the number of the American Archbishops at Rheims. It was not caused by German ambitions in the Near East. It was not caused by the conflicting commercial interests of Germany and England. Neither was it caused by the desire of the Austrian empire to crush Democracy and Socialism. All these causes were false, but they do not explain the war. Each of these causes, as the hand on which all these daggers were forged, was the major cause: SIN.

Individual sin was the cause of the first murder; national sin is the cause of this last and greatest murder which we call world war.

Now we are long for peace, a real peace, which will not be a favoring preparation for another war. To all our pious for peace the fact to be kept in mind is national sin. War is an effect; sin is the cause. While the cause remains, the effect will be constant and imminent. Peace will come, abolishing peace, when the real cause of war is taken away.

The Hague Conference did not end war. Arbitration treaties have not ended war. International societies have not ended war. Why not? Because they have been dealing with symptoms and have ignored the cause. They have ignored the cause of the disease called war in seeking the cure called peace. We believe in the Hague Conference; we believe in arbitration, but we do not believe that treating symptoms will destroy disease. The cause of disease must be removed. It was in the midst of the hollow
The nations shall be turned into the valley of dry wasters, The voice of the Lord shall be the harmony of the plain. 29 He shall destroy in the midst of the sea, and in Egypt; and the pride of Ethiopia shall be consumed. 30...