If the opinion of all the civilised people in the world could be known, we should probably find that very few of them really approved of war. Why, then, do wars continue? Why are we always preparing for war? The explanation is that, although all the great nations are becoming more civilised, it is not so very long since they were barbarous. It is a slow matter to civilise men, and it takes still longer for them to understand that, because their minds have changed, their actions ought to change too. It is so easy to go on as we are; it is so difficult to alter the conduct of whole communities. A powerful man might possibly induce his own nation to agree to disband its army, but who will induce all the other nations to agree to abandon theirs? The task is so gigantic that it seems almost impossible that war will ever cease.



