

A POEM FOR THIS MONTH**DISARMAMENT**

By JOHN G. WHITTIER

The time when Whittier, the American Quaker poet, wrote this appeal for peace was in 1871, just seventy years ago. France and Germany were the nations at war, and about half a million men had been killed or wounded. Can any nation afford to put away its weapons, trusting that it will remain unmolested? Nations do not think so today during this great Second World War. But the poet thought that that is the Christian course which should be followed, and that love will conquer hate. Only a comparatively small number in the world today have such faith.

"PUT up the sword!" The voice of Christ
once more

Speaks, in the pauses of the cannon's roar,
O'er fields of corn by fiery sickles reaped
And left dry ashes; o'er trenches heaped
With nameless dead; o'er cities starving
slow

Under a rain of fire; through wards of
woe

Down which a groaning diapason runs
From tortured brothers, husbands, lovers,
sons

Of desolate women in their far-off
homes,

Waiting to hear the step that never
comes!

O men and brothers, let that voice be
heard.

War fails; try peace; put up the useless
sword!

Fear not the end. There is a story told
In Eastern tents, when autumn nights

grow cold,

And round the fire the Mongol shepherds
sit

With grave responses listening unto it:

Once, on errands of his mercy bent,

Buddha, the holy and benevolent,

Met a fell monster, huge and fierce of
look,

Whose awful voice the hills and forests
shook.

"O son of peace," the giant cried, "thy
fate

Is sealed at last, and love shall yield to
hate!"

The unarmed Buddha, looking, with no
trace

Of fear or anger, in the monster's face,
In pity said, "Poor fiend, even thee I
love!"

Lo! as he spake, the sky-tall terror sank
To hand-breadth size; the huge abhor-
rence shrank

Into the form and fashion of a dove;
And where the thunder of its rage was
heard,

Circling above him, sweetly sang the
bird.

"Hate hath no harm for love," so ran
the song;

"And peace unweaponed conquers every
.. wrong!"

Gift - Dr. Parbenig