

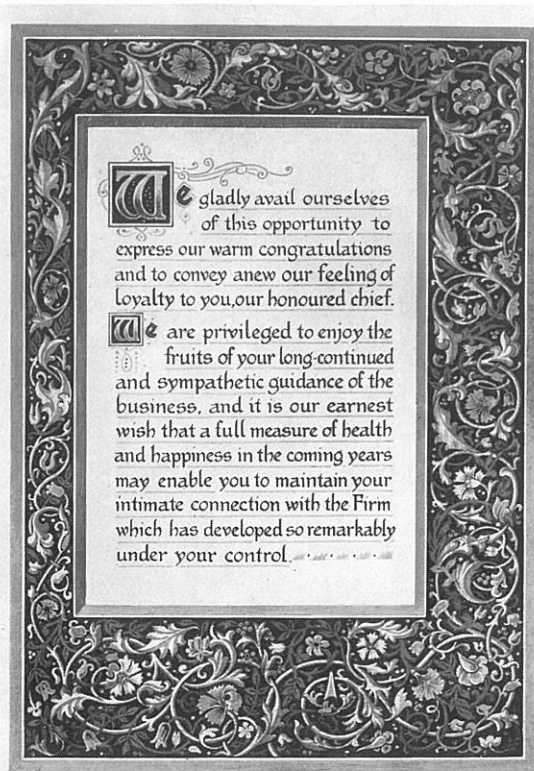
Reform Movements

Joseph Rowntree's outlook on men and movements was a wide one, and his time and means, as we have already seen, were ungrudgingly given to seeking out the causes of human misery and trying to unroot them. Thus, he supported those who were labouring to put an end to the opium traffic between British China and India. He generously helped in the efforts on behalf of oppressed womanhood associated with the name of Josephine Butler, and he continued his help on behalf of social purity. For many years he was Chairman of the Committee of Management of the York Retreat, where his long and devoted service and wise counsel will be long remembered by his colleagues.

For international peace he was an earnest worker. His careful study of the evil effects of war upon character, and of the serious economic difficulties following in

had guided the policy of the Association. Among other things he spoke of the great increase in the purity of Parliamentary and Municipal elections which he had seen during his life, a matter which he felt to be of prime importance.

In 1907, in a pamphlet entitled "The First Step," he urged the abolition of the veto of the House of Lords as a preliminary to reform of the Second Chamber. Just prior to the war, and in conjunction with the late Richard Cross, he wrote a set of articles in *The Nation*, contending that the theory of the House of Lords as a check really amounted to a transfer of party conflict to the Second Chamber. "The only serious fault in a popular assembly which a Second Chamber can correct is a certain slovenliness and ineffectiveness of workmanship." This fault, he thought, could be remedied if the Commons elected a Second Chamber on a basis of proportional representation.



The Illuminated Address presented to Joseph Rowntree by the employees on his 80th birthday. Over 4,500 members of the regular staff, including some hundreds then serving with the Forces, signed the Address