

had a passion for the accumulating of military force. His soldiers must be above the average in stature and equipment. A giant from a foreign land enlisting in the king's service would, if necessary, receive a larger income than the representative of the nation at another court. But strange to say this monarch was of most pacific temper. He sedulously avoided any collision with a foreign power. His army was for display, not for service. So far as aggressive warfare was concerned these men-at-arms might have been called figure-heads. Now in the Church of the Lord Jesus, not the visible, its professed people, but in the TRUE church these are neither figure-heads nor spectators. She is a church militant that against a mighty and thoroughly equipped for disputes every foot of ground on the way to glory. Therefore, to begin with, let us be assured, that to become a Christian is not to COMPLETE one's struggle in life, but to BEGIN it. It is most erroneous, most dangerous to conclude that once having trusted in the Saviour one may settle down to the ease that would find its parallel in the quiet of a soldier's home life after the tumult of war and the rigor of hard service. No! to believe is but to enlist. We have but chosen Christ

as our leader. The Lord is the captain of our salvation, and the way to rest lies through the country of the enemy, with whom we must cope, and over whom triumph in the protracted struggle. Our attention may well, in the first place, be centered upon the consideration of the enemy.

It is no advantage to form a low estimate of the strength of an opponent. Should we over-estimate his prowess there would be no risk and no loss. If our estimate be below the mark it is a triumph indeed if we escape. The prospect to an onlooker is against us. An astute statesman prophesied of a campaign that it would last but ninety days. His calculations of the enemy's number and view of their strength were sadly at fault. Ninety days were consumed in fighting and victory was not gained until four years had elapsed. In the Christian conflict many are overcome because they do not gauge the strength of the foe. They think lightly of him, and their preparation is correspondingly inadequate. They are the vainly confident who hope by the mere wave of the hand and the uttering of some talismanic phrase lightly to brush aside all who dispute their path. They are strangers to the delibera-