

His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes,' which He commands thee now again, in this solemn time of release and victory, as though you were under the sanctions and solemnities of Sinai. Receive us, and make or renew with us this day the covenant of peace,—a covenant of peace between your people and our people, between your land and ours, in so far as this matter lies within our mutual power. I believe that our mutual power is so great that, if the Christians and the Christian Churches on either side steadfastly resolve that war shall not be,—or, rather, that the justice and the charity of our common faith shall be so faithfully observed in all matters of difference between the two countries that war *need* not be, that war *cannot* be without great mutual sin,—then, I believe, war *will* not be. I am perfectly sensible that it were a vain thing to cry, 'Peace, peace, when there is no peace.' 'First pure, then peaceable.' Justice lies at the basis of everything dear to men and nations. If we have wronged you in anything, and this can be proved before the moral judgment of mankind, or even before our own best consciousness, by all means let the wrong be righted. If there lies any injustice between us, we can neither give nor receive love. But we can, and we ought, else we name the name of Christ in vain, to stir up all our love in order to the settlement of the questions of difference in a Christian way, and without the dread arbitrament of the sword. My heart trembles and bleeds already, when in imagination I survey the scenes which would soon burst on the sight of an astonished world, if these two peoples were to fall in deadly strife. My heart trembles—not with a craven fear. I am an Englishman. I know my countrymen. I know them to be—like yourselves—incapable of fear in anything that touches the honour or life of the nation. You know your own metal now. Judge ours by that; and then think what a war must be, that has the pith of England on the one side, and the resources and energies of America on the other. What could any sane man, citizen, or statesman, hope to accomplish by such a strife? What could we do to each other? We could incarnadine the ocean that rolls its green waves between us. We could add new names to the list, already far too long, of the battle-fields of the world. We could multiply widows and orphans. We could swell the dark tide of human sorrow in both countries, and cast into the future ages seeds of bitter enmities, the dark fruits of which our children, and our children's children, here and yonder, would too certainly reap. But what benefit of any kind could come of such a conflict? How it could in any way help the cause of freedom, fairness, humanity, religion—how it could possibly fail to inflict irreparable wounds upon them all, and throw back human progress the world over, I confess I cannot see. May the God of peace bruise Satan under our feet shortly! May He turn the heart of England to America, and the heart of America to England, lest He come and smite the earth with a curse! Let us correct even our patriotism by our religion, and conciliate all our differences before the Cross. At present your hearts are all aglow with the love of that dear country for which you have done and suffered so much. Let there be mingled with this holy attachment the fervours of a yet nobler affection. Let us try to stand together in the brotherhood of nations, and to strive together for a holy and universal peace. We bid you God-speed in all the endeavours you may make to preach the Gospel of salvation, and establish our free churches in the states of your own land, or anywhere else in the world. No section of the Christian Church has ever had on hand a more interesting work than you have now. The work will be very difficult. It will require all your wisdom, all your patience and love. But it is noble, and—having grace to do it—you will cover this continent with righteousness and love; 'and the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.' "

On Dr. Raleigh's return to London, he was enthusiastically welcomed back at a large meeting of his congregation, and an address was presented to him expressing the interest with which they had followed his journeyings, and the pleasure with which they received him safely and happily, with health and invigoration, back amongst them.