

war lords. You say England had Mexico, United States, China, Africa and I know not what in possession or contribution and made Germans jealous and feel that they'd like to have a larger place in the sun. I am not familiar enough with universal history to give England a *carte blanche* or a *carte noire* in this matter. One thing is certain—England is in, either in physical or fiscal, possession of a quarter of the globe and a quarter of the human family can sleep and even snore in safety under her flag. If her commonwealth were not one of liberty, fraternity and equity another thirteen colonies would soon be found to holt. But to return: it is concupiscence, the desire to have and to hold our neighbors' goods that, in practice, was the cause of the war. That was the place in the sun. If this earth were twice as big as it is and were never possessed by squatters like Holland, Belgium, Denmark, especially, who stand in one's road to the sea the desire to take possession would not have been a moral dereliction. But at least these three little countries were sturdy nationalities long before, aye, a thousand years before Bismarck's Germany was born! It was, therefore, desiring to have her neighbors' property that caused Germany to plunge in the hell of crime and iniquity essential and incidental to this war.

With the ethical and moral aspects of the war I am done. I fear I have been dreadfully prolix and I pass with pleasure on to the consideration of religion in relation to war. I shall have to enquire whether men in the presence of death feel the presence of God more intimately; exercise the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity more frequently; throw themselves on their knees in private or public worship more ardently than they do when pursuing the trades, the occupations and the avocations of peace? The opportunities for public worship in war are few and far between and, therefore, that topic can be dismissed, except to say that in camp and on the field many attend because the company do or rather because they have to. This is especially true when they attend a religious service, the creed and ritual of which are odious to them. The question of private prayer and piety is far more interesting and although while in soldiers training in this country I have noticed no very remarkable piety, I hear it is quite different in France and Flanders where the thunders of the volcanoes are rocking the earth and roaring in their ears. It is quite ordinary to find Protestant soldiers in Catholic chapels and churches, for there are no others there, piously appealing in private prayer to God to protect them from the dangers of their desperate trade. As to France itself which for twenty-five years has persecuted religion, can one say that war will produce a revival? That is being generally said for it is sadly