

instruction is poured upon him, made up partly of the loud and turbid floods sent forth by the salvationist pamphleteer, partly of the clearer but more feeble rivulets of pastoral origin, too often the evident product of mere surface drainage.

In these days, and especially during the docile mood born of disaster and national suffering, it is, of course, to the loudest of these torrents that the Englishman listens most attentively; for, in spite of all the brutality and baseness imputed to him, he is always most anxious to hear the least pleasant prophecy and to see the least flattering portrait of himself. It is a characteristic that, at any rate, deserves more recognition than it gets, but in the present instance it works unfortunately, for it works irresolution, and to be right but suspect yourself of wrong is, in the conduct of such undertakings as a war, more fatal than to do wrong and believe yourself right. It may be wrong to make war; it must be wrong to make it irresolutely.

In his general view of war, we believe the ordinary typical moderate-minded Englishman to be right both by instinct and by training, and we hope that he will not allow himself to be persuaded, even by those who hate him most, of his own barbarity or heathenism. To his accusers abroad and at home we do not wish him to make any hostile or provoking answer; it will be enough to let them say their say and to reflect upon it in silence. We shall be surprised if he does not in the end decide—as he had better have decided at the beginning—that his assailants, however well-intentioned, are wrong both in substance and in method.

When we speak of method we refer, of course, only to the method of the more violent; there are, no doubt, fair-minded advocates of arbitration, conciliatory members of peace societies, cartoonists of gentle humour, pamphleteers who are not profane. But too often of late those who have fought in the front rank for peace have acted on the principle of bayoneting the enemy with a yell before they have ascertained whether he is in fact a Boxer or a Christian. We do not use the word in any metaphorical sense when we say that this method is a