

flowers of Balacava. Ask their witness, and see if they will not reply that it is well with them and with theirs, that they would not it were otherwise, would not if they might receive back their gifts of love and life, nor take again the purple of their blood out of the breastplate of England." Would the witnesses of those whose hearts are buried beneath those little crosses in South Africa be a different witness to-day? "The blessing of peace," then, we acknowledge in our prayers, we turn to God and thank Him first in our Te Deum and presently in our solemn Eucharist. In God's name let us keep the blessing as those who believe that they have received it from God Himself. Let us mar it by no excesses, either now

or on the return of the victorious troops; and not forget in the softer days of peace the lessons we have been taught in the stern school of war. In the last letter received from the front yesterday these words occur: "It is a splendid experience that everyone is gaining, learning more and more of the things that are real, the things that matter in life, acquiring from the bracing effects of meeting discomfort and danger, something of self-control and endurance, and patience and cheerfulness, that should always remain with them." May they always remain with us, and may the lessons wrought into the very fibre of the nation's character by the discipline of war be deepened and not blunted by the blessings of peace."

