

during a war just then ended. He was sent with a party of soldiers to get provisions wherever they could find any. They first arrived at a farm house. The man having been frequently plundered, had fled, leaving his wife with several small children and only one cow for their subsistence.

"The woman fell at the feet of the soldiers and implored them to spare the cow for the nourishment of her helpless offspring. The officer had to force himself away from the woman as she clasped his knees in frantic grief. Yet the soldiers drove away the cow.

"This officer afterward told me," continued Wesley, "that war had rendered his heart so hard and his mind so ferocious, that he could even have broiled the woman and her children."

To give up the cruelty of war, you must give up war itself, for it is only by cruelty it prevails.

But the *cruelty* of warfare is the result secured by wicked means, His training transformed the soldier into a machine for murder.

God has said, "Thou shalt not kill," but he is taught to kill. He has said, "Thou shalt love thine enemy," but he is taught to hate his enemy and do him all the harm he can.

The father of Hannibal took him to the altar, and there made him swear eternal *hatred* to the Romans. Admiral Nelson was accustomed thus to counsel midshipmen: "Young gentlemen, you must first, implicitly obey all orders without any attempt to form any opinion of your own respecting them. Second, you must consider every man your enemy who speaks evil of your king; and third, you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil."

Sir Charles Napier has said, "To overcome all feeling of religion, is generally the means of making a warrior."

Burke says, "that war suspends all rules of moral obligations."

Robert Hall says, "war is nothing less than the temporary repeal of virtue."

It is by teaching what is directly opposed to the nature and spirit of Christianity that men are prepared to butcher each other. It is therefore, not strange that war should be cruel.

It has been said, that "War's least horror is the ensanguined field."

It is possible there may be *less* truth than poetry in the above. The place of combat may present the worst part of the picture, yet