

just as thousands of Christian warriors sleep under the shadow of the Altar waiting the dawn of the Resurrection Day.

Those who would entirely dissociate Christianity from warfare forget that we are living in an imperfect condition at best, where evil is largely mingled with good, and that it is the will of the Creator that the wheat and tares shall grow together until the harvest. The Church though not of the world, is still in the world, she is at present but the Church Militant, and "the end is not yet". Moreover the quarrels of nations are not like the quarrels of individuals. In the latter "the law is open, let them implead one another." In the former when all that diplomacy and arbitration can do has been done, there is one final appeal to the arbitrament of war.

The present conflict in which we are unhappily engaged in South Africa is one undertaken by the Empire in the cause of freedom and equal rights between man and man, one too forced upon us after long and patient endeavours to settle the matters at issue by peaceful negotiations—one wherein the Church of the Empire has important duties to fulfil.

The present is a time of great anxiety: we have met with a succession of reverses in the field, and the Church recalls us to our allegiance to that God, whom in the days of our wealth we have too often forgotten, invites us to a confession of our many sins and shortcomings both national and individual, calls for humiliation, penitence, amendment.

Many causes doubtless have contributed to our want of success, an unreasoning confidence and pride in our own resources, a corresponding depreciation of the strength and valour of the enemy, the fact that modern weapons render a well entrenched position well nigh impregnable, the necessity of the early months of a war like the present being to a great extent tentative and experimental. But at the back of all these reasons lies the one great cause the cause which the Church specially brings before us today, our forgetfulness of that God, who is the one and only source of strength both physical and spiritual. May our present chastening call us back into the old path of dependence upon Him in everything, remembering that He is our only Saviour Deliverer, and that His Service is the only service in which we can look for blessing and true success. But whatever may be the result of our present reverses, let them not cause panic, let them not cause any mistrust of the personal valour of our soldiers, of the righteousness of our cause, of the glorious destiny of our empire, of the protecting care of the Lord of Hosts:

"Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: See that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is *not yet*."

I see many causes for thankfulness even at the present moment: the very fact that this day is being observed throughout the Church of England as a day of intercession to the giver of all Victory is in itself a matter of thankfulness: again we should be especially thankful for the marvellous strengthening,