

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

tacitly that this is an inevitable incident of a state of war. Now the man who says candidly 'Christianity is all very well in time of peace, but it won't work in war ; so much the worse for Christianity !' is at least consistent : he merits a certain respect. But if we tacitly act upon this principle, yet never clearly acknowledge it even to ourselves, there is little to be said for us. We cannot make the best of both worlds. We cannot serve Christ and Odin.

If we are in earnest with our Christianity, we shall constantly remind ourselves that Christ died for the people of Germany as well as for us ; that He is at this moment—with an intensity which we can very faintly conceive—desiring the good of every single German and of the whole German people ; and that if we are not, to the utmost of our spiritual powers, striving to unite ourselves with His mind and purpose for the German people, we are not even trying to follow Him.

If we bear this in mind, certain practical conclusions seem to follow. We believe that we do right to be at war with the Germans. We must therefore desire their defeat, in whatever completeness may be necessary to a lasting settlement. But we must immediately go further.

We are constantly saying, in our newspapers and elsewhere, that what we are really fighting is not the German people but German militarism. We must try not only to say this, but to mean it. We must always be looking forward to a future in which the German people will be able, with their magnificent mental endowments, to make their distinctive contribution to the Kingdom of God, and in which we shall be able to live in friendly