

throughout His Majesty's dominions in South Africa.

Beneath the stately dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the King and Queen and the representatives of the nation gathered to offer their service of thanksgiving to Almighty God, Who had guided the counsels of our rulers to prosecute this war with prudence and mercy, Who had granted success to our armies, and Who had at length in His Divine goodness given the inestimable blessing of peace to our Empire.

The Bishop of London preached the sermon on this memorable occasion. Taking for his text the words, "The Blessing of Peace," he said: "And if it is obviously a blessing to ourselves, is it a piece of unworthy cant to say that we believe it is a blessing also to our gallant foes? Often in the course of the many intercession services we have had in this Cathedral, and in other places, for the success of our arms, we have been met with the question, 'Why should your prayers be heard rather than the prayers of the other side? They are praying with equal confidence to the same God, in the name of the same Jesus Christ, for success for their arms.' Our answer then was precisely the same as it is to-day; 'we were appealing,' we said, 'to the God of Judgment, by Whom actions are weighed. We only prayed then, if we prayed as Christians, that, if it was His will, we might succeed.' We believed then, as we believe now, that there is only one 'best' for both sides, that, therefore, in the Highest Wisdom, we were both praying for the one thing—and that even if our words did not take this form, our thoughts spoke in the words of the Psalm, 'The Lord sitteth above the waterfall, and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.' And for that name we went on with confidence to say, 'The Lord shall give strength unto His people, the Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace.' There is no inconsistency, therefore, in be-

lieving that the prayers of both nations are answered in the gift of this blessing of peace. And sinking all thoughts now of enmity or revenge we shall welcome as fellow-subjects of our Empire, as those likely in the future to help us to build up a prosperous South Africa, and those who, sharing our religion, should help us to spread there the Kingdom of God, the very men who have been our foes so long.

And if it is a blessing to both nations, it is a blessing to the brave soldiers who have fought and bled, and marched and counter-marched, and watched night after night. They have received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, but we must thank God for them to-day; we must thank God for their courage, their perseverance, their cheerfulness, their unselfishness, their self-control. We must thank God that now at last their labors are ended, and that the prize of their toil is the blessing of peace. And if to those who will come home alive and well, or go back with honor to the Colonies from which they came, peace is a blessing; so it is to those who with sad faces and aching hearts will see in the returning legions the vacant places of those who will return no more. There is a blessing in the peace for them, for it tells them that their dear one did not die in vain. "I will appeal," said Mr. Ruskin at the end of the Crimean war, "to the testimony of those whom the war has cost the dearest, I ask their testimony to whom the war has changed the aspect of the earth and the imagery of Heaven, whose hopes it has cut off like a spider's web, whose treasure it has placed in a moment under the seas of clay—those who can never more see the sun rise, nor watch the climbing light gild the eastern clouds without thinking what graves it has gilded first far down behind the earth-line, who never more shall see the crocus bloom in spring without thinking what dust it is that feeds the wild