

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

'With malice toward none ; with charity for all ; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in ; to bind up the nation's wounds ; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.'

(From Abraham Lincoln's *Second Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1865.)

THE present war has plunged all who would be Christian into difficulty. There are intricate questions of principle to be faced : 'Is war ever justifiable for those who profess the religion of love ? And, if so, under what conditions and limitations ?' Here there is room for genuine perplexity and difference of opinion, and there are perhaps few of us who do not feel the need of thinking out our principles more thoroughly than ever before. This, however, takes time, and there are immediate duties before us. On these plain duties all Christian men, from the Crusader to the Quaker, can agree. Here, too, there is difficulty, but it is of a different kind : it lies rather in doing than in knowing what is right. Though in some directions the path of Christian duty is hard to discern, in others it is plain and urgent. Loyalty is