

men will look back on war with the shame with which they now look back on slavery.

v

Here is the letter which Onesimus brought to his master and from which you can gather the whole of his story:

Paul a prisoner of Jesus Christ and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved and to Apphia our sister and to Archippus and the church in thy house. . . . I thank my God always making mention of you in my prayers. For I had much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

Wherefore, though I might enjoin you to do what is fitting, yet for love's sake I rather beseech you being such a one as Paul the aged and now a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I beseech you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds. . . . whom I send back to you though I fain would have kept him with me that in your behalf he might minister to me in the bonds of the gospel, but without your mind I would do nothing that your goodness should not be of necessity but of free will.

For perhaps he was parted from you for a season that you might have him for ever, no longer as a bondservant but as a brother beloved. . . . If then you count me as a partner, receive him as myself. If he has wronged you or owes you anything put it down to my account. I, Paul, write with my own hand I will repay it. Though indeed you owe to me even your own soul. . . . Having confidence in your obedience I write, knowing that you will do even beyond what I say.

But withal prepare me also a lodging, for I hope through your prayers I shall be granted to come to you.

Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, salutes you, and so do Mark and Aristarchus and Demas and Luke, my fellow-workers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.