

NOTES OF A SERMON.

PRACHED IN THE COLLEGE CHAPEL ON SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY 1860. BY THE REV. R. A. PARROCK, M. A.,
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"And 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." St. Matthew XXIV: 6.

The connexion in which these words were first spoken is remarkable. —The disciples had called our Lord's attention to the buildings of the temple, their glory and magnificence; surely these formed a worthy centre of the worship of the one true God. Yet our Lord did not respond to this claim on his admiration; with his prophetic vision he saw the sacred city not many years hence encompassed by the armies of the aliens, and he said:—"there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Thus he saw fit to check their confidence in outward manifestations of splendour. He then proceeds in a prophetic strain to utter certain predictions, some of which have reference to the more immediate future, others to the end of the world—And as if to allay any undue panic that might be caused by his words he declares in my text:—"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".

Many earnest Christians of our own day consider war an unmitigated evil, absolutely in all cases criminal, the offspring and the device of the devil—Nor is it difficult to see the reason of this. War makes light of that which Christians hold most sacred, the preciousness of the individual human life, and thanks be to God this generation is learning the true value of the life of each member of the body. War moreover brings into play some of the worst passions of fallen humanity and no wonder many gentle a soul looks upon it as the child of hell. But on the other hand the Bible is full of wars. The Old Testament is to a great extent a record of the noble deeds of the warriors of the Lord of Hosts, fighting for truth and liberty against heathen darkness and oppression. At the beginning of the New Testament when soldiers came to the Baptist, he did not command them to give up their employment, but "to do violence to no man neither accuse any falsely, and to be content with their wages."

And so through the ages the Church has been closely connected with warfare. The glorious Crusades were undertaken to rescue the Holy Sepulchre from the hands of the infidel, and the pages of history from that day to this are inscribed with the golden deeds of Christian warriors. the colours of our regiments are blessed by the Church of Christ, and when their active service is ended, find a safe keeping in the venerable Cathedrals of the Mother Land,