

community pervaded by enlightened faith in the Supreme and heartfelt devotion to His word and will—a doctrine no doubt at which third-class politicians may laugh, but which, nevertheless, will command the approbation of every statesman of the first rank. Probably a more stupendous delusion never dominated the political intellect than the seemingly profound but in reality miserably shallow dictum of Napoleon, that God is always on the side of the strongest battalions—a dictum to which the history of warfare, not in Judah and Israel alone, but conspicuously in England and Scotland as well, has a thousand times over given the lie. The God of battles does not commit Himself in any case to give the palm of victory to the best disciplined and most multitudinous troops ; nor does He in every instance promise to defend the cause which on abstract principles can be shown to be right : the one rule that regulates His action is this, that He is ever found upon the side of His own Divine and gracious purposes. Hence in raising bulwarks to defend a nation, its rulers might display more wisdom if they expended less time and treasure on the preparation of armaments, and devoted more of their thought and energy to the problem of how most efficiently and speedily to strengthen the moral and religious fibre of their peoples. A third lesson hints that the shortest road to victory for the Church of Jesus Christ in its contest with the many forms of infidelity by which she is assailed, is, or may be, not to rush precipitately into the field of theological polemics ; but, while not neglecting legitimate defence, to apply herself with ardent faith and diligent enthusiasm to the prosecution of her own special business, that of praising the Lord in the beauty of holiness, leaving the different companies of her assailants, atheists, pantheists, materialists, agnostics, or by whatever appellation called, to be dealt with by her invisible Commander. Were she to do so, she might ere long see the wonder of Tekoa battlefield reproduced in her own experience, and her adversaries, instead of destroying her, annihilating one another. At least, it might be worth while for her to consider whether the experiment should not be tried.

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