

IN WAR TIME

Germans by force. We have thus helped to bring about a 'state of war'; and in a 'state of war' it is very natural for mutual hatred and ill will to grow up. This is why some of our friends hold that it can never be right for a Christian man to promote war. For war is not only a natural effect of evil passions; it almost inevitably fosters and greatly aggravates them. This we are seeing to-day in the growing embitterment of opinion both in Germany and in Great Britain.

If, in spite of this, we are prepared to advocate or support a war, even for the most just of causes, we are taking a great responsibility upon ourselves. We are committed to the view that it is really possible to make war on a people without hating them or wishing them evil. But even if it is possible to make war in this spirit, it is immensely difficult; and we shall have to exert to the very utmost our forces of mind and will if we are to check the natural tendency of war to beget in us 'envy, hatred and malice and all uncharitableness'. We need to examine ourselves most stringently lest, while professing allegiance to none but Christian principles, we are allowing ourselves to cherish feelings and designs that we could never bring ourselves to submit to the scrutiny of Jesus Christ.

The risk we run of deceiving ourselves in this matter is exceedingly great. We are not consciously dishonest, but insensibly we take up one attitude in theory and quite a different attitude in practice. In theory we say that it is possible to make war without hate: for otherwise we clearly could not, 'in a cool hour', justify our going to war at all. But in practice we acquiesce in pure desire of harm to our enemies, and indeed assume