

God: but it needs to be kept right and though this can be done only by God, yet as God does it when the Christian fulfils certain conditions he should do all he can to keep himself right; should perform the duties which the creature owes to the Creator, the preserved to the Preserver, the redeemed to the Redeemer. A.

THOUGHTS ON WAR.

MR. EDITOR:—Dear Sir.—Believing as I do that your little monthly is the unflinching advocate of the universality of God's love to the human family, I take the liberty of sending you a few thoughts on the unhappy struggle now raging in our sister republic. Much has been said and written in defence of the course pursued by the Federal government to crush the rebellion and restore the Union to its former position. Whether there is any probability of doing this is a question of deep interest, but it seems to me that another question should have the priority, viz. What constitutes a sufficient ground for one kingdom or part of a kingdom to go to war with another? That the south have raised the standard of rebellion against lawful authority without just cause there can hardly be two opinions on the subject, but the question is, how should they be dealt with? Does the Bible sanction war in any case except when the iniquity of a nation has become full and a Divine command is given to a nation to chastise or extirpate the offender? What is this, but capital punishment on a large scale, but God alone is the proper judge in the matter. If it be the duty of individuals to return good for evil, should not the same course be adopted by communities? When one or more in a family or school refuse to submit to the authority of parents or teacher, what course is pursued? Does the parent or teacher ever dream of employing deadly instruments to force them to return to their allegiance? The usual and as we think the proper way, is to leave them to their own resources until they find out their mistake and return to their duty. The prodigal son is a case in point, and all are aware of its happy termination. I have often thought that there was a striking resemblance between the southern revolt and that of the ten tribes from under Rehoboam, and what said the Lord by the mouth of His Servant? Go not up to fight against thy brethren for the thing is of me. It is doubtless very desirable that the Union should be preserved entire and still more so that four