

the highest positions those who can bear with their weaknesses, and cover their faults with the mantle of charity, while they serve their interests with zeal and ability.

(c) Then meekness deals with those powers that endure. They may or may not be recognized by men, but none the less truly do they shape the course of nations and mould the future of the world. Much might be said about the undercurrents of history. Greece, vanquished by Roman arms on many a hard fought field, captivated her conqueror by her intellect, won him by her culture, and ruined him by her voluptuousness and vice. Christianity, persecuted and driven out of sight by the Roman authorities, yet under the surface leavened the mass of the people with its feelings and convictions, until in Constantine's time it was suddenly discovered that the Christians were the leading sect. Later on, when Rome was crushed and devastated by northern hordes, the religion of the subject race converted and civilized the conquerors. These were movements unnoticed by the great men of these times. Even the closest observers did not notice that a new power was growing that would soon sweep all before it. As men now estimate the forces that brought the world to its present condition, the decisions of rulers and achievements of conquerors are seen to have been the merest side-issue, while the powers gained and wielded by the spirit of meekness have changed the course of Empire, and turned the world to its will. So it is now, and always. The time will soon come when all the world will recognize that the nations of to-day have been influenced infinitely less by force, and wealth and the wisdom of men, than by those unseen spiritual powers that act on men through love.

This will define the church's attitude toward war. In those days of conflict it is well to remember that the spirit of Christianity is in irreconcilable antagonism to deadly strife. The religion of love cannot but be opposed to the bloodshed and butchery of the battle-field, to the desolation and anguish it brings to every nation engaged in it. It disowns war as a means of advancing Christianity. War may, as in Reformation days, defend ground already won; it may, as in the case of China,