

THE CALL OF THE WAR

A Sermon

by

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"He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."—LUKE XXII: 36.

INTRODUCTION

These words sound strange from the lips of Jesus Christ, and we must be careful not to misunderstand them. Throughout His whole career on earth He had taught his disciples that their triumph was not to be won by violence, but by character. Cruel war is incompatible with the

Ideals of the Prince of Peace;

and when His ideals are accepted, and put into practice, nations will learn war no more.

At the same time, even Christ shows the fighting spirit sometimes, and will not accept peace at any price. While He refuses to embark on mere selfish quarrels, and visits with care the humblest and most needy souls, His indignation blazes forth against greed and hypocrisy, and making a lash for the backs of the desecrators of His Temple, He drives them out. He is angry at the proper time because He is merciful; because His supreme passion, at whatever cost, is TO SWEEP EARTH CLEAN OF THE EVILS WHICH DEFILE IT.