

such scenes, that they may be preserved blameless. The following article is so excellent, that I send it to you for insertion in the *Magazine*.
W. G.

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War, though arrayed in scarlet, emblazoned with banners, and attended with drums and trumpets, with all its shouts of victory, its extended conquests, and its glittering glory, is still the blackest plague-spot of sin, the ally of Satan. Engendered by the lustful covetousness of the human heart, it spreads its blasting influence and ruthless desolation. Its presence is a curse, its breath is cruelty, and its progress inseparable from sighs and tears, and libations of human blood. "Whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

Such is war in its origin and its elements, its objects and its influence. Well, then, may we turn from its turbulent delusions, and heart-sickening enormities; from the sins it has committed, and the sorrows it has inflicted upon the world, to the healing influences of the gospel of peace. Fallen as sinful man is from the glory of his first creation, how different does he appear, even now, when urged by evil passions, and when restrained by Divine grace! When despising the law of his Maker he breathes persecution and slaughter against his fellow-creatures, what a contrast does he present to what he is when animated by Christian benevolence, and the language of his heart is, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men."

But though it be well to abhor contention and blood-shed, and to "follow after the things which make for peace," though it be well to live in peace "one with another," and to seek that "peace of God which passeth understanding," yet is there a

war in which every true disciple of Christ must engage. This is the crusade against evil, the holy war against sin that must be incessantly pursued. "War to the knife," cried out a warrior, "against the enemies of our country." "War unto death," cries the Christian, "against the enemies of our souls."

"I delight," said the apostle, "in the law of God after the inward man; but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin." This is the contention that we must maintain: every sincere seeker after peace must engage in this war.

This is a war of the members against the mind; the flesh against the spirit; darkness against light; evil against good; earth against heaven; Satan against God! We have every thing to hope or to fear; all to lose or to gain; defeat is irrevocable ruin, and victory is never-ending gain.

It is a fearful thing to cast a glance over the field when the battle is set in array, and opposing armies are ready to rush forward into the sanguinary strife! and still more fearful to be a gazer when the conflict has begun; when the trampling of iron hoofs, the clashing of swords, and the roaring of cannon are mingled with the shouts of the charging hosts, and the dying and the dead lie scattered on the ground.

It is not a battle-plain of this kind on which the Christian warrior is called to contend, yet does his heart, at times, sink within him when confronted by his manifold foes. He has declared war against sin, and all the powers of sin and darkness have declared war against him. No quarter is to be given on either side; the Christian must slay or be slain, conquer or be conquered. He has drawn the sword, and flung the scabbard to the winds. He must fight out the