

THE PRICE OF BLOOD

human sin cured, can we not reverently hope for, pray for, work for these same fruits from our sacrifice? Unless these fruits come there can be little hope of a permanent peace. Force will never remove international menace. Constructive moral forces with an adequate motive and a sufficient dynamic can alone do so. This is going to be the hardest task of all, but for the sake of the fallen it must be undertaken. History has already thrown up in Abraham Lincoln a great man who earned the unique distinction that while he fought for one side he was thinking of and working for the good of both. We see the result in a unified America, where the North and the South respect each other. We are fighting strenuously for a side, but we can even now think and work for the ultimate good of all. If we do, men and women in the agony of bereavement may possess their souls in quietness and confidence, cherishing the certain hope that from their loss there will blossom new life for stricken Europe. Then the pain of loss will be healed and the worth of the sacrifice understood.

The discipline of any road of redemption is severe, and if the British people set out deliberately to seek a worthy price for the blood we are now pouring forth, there are many fierce tussles of spirit ahead, many acts of bitter penitence, and much purifying of hand and heart. Are we to aim at rebuilding the broken bridge after the war is fought and won? Are we to aim at a reconstructed brotherhood of mankind in which love and unity and