

previous fifty years. The plowshare of war tore up the ground for the good seed of the truth. May it not be the same in France and Germany?

“Out of the sufferings of nations comes the serious mind; out of their salvation the grateful heart; out of endurance, fortitude; out of deliverance, faith; but when they have learned to live under providence of laws, and with decency and justice of regard for each other, and when they have done away with violent and external sources of suffering, worse evils seem to arise out of their rest—evils that vex less and mortify more, that suck the blood though they do not shed it, and ossify the heart though they do not torture it.” (*Ruskin.*) Great as should be our gratitude for peace and our fear of war, there is “a fear greater than sword or sedition; a fear that dependence on God should be forgotten because the bread is given and the water is sure; that gratitude may cease because His constancy of protection has taken the place of a natural law; that heavenly hope may grow faint amid the full fruition of this world; that selfishness may take the place of undemanded devotion, compassion be lost in vain glory, and love in dissimulation; that enervation may succeed to strength, apathy to patience, and the noise of jesting words and the foulness of dark thoughts, to the earnest purity of the girded loins and the burning lamp.” Nations may perish through luxury, selfishness, impurity and godlessness; it is, therefore, a mercy to them when the thunderbolt of war wakens them to serious inquiry and earnest thought. The present war is, no doubt, ultimately intended to prepare the way for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

It is more than eighteen centuries since the angels sang “Peace on Earth.” Why has not that glorious promise been fulfilled? God has done His part, and amply fulfilled His promise. He gave His Son, the Prince of Peace. Why is it then that war is still possible? Simply because men have rejected the Prince of Peace. “We will not have this man to rule over us.”—The so called Christian nations have been

permeated with Antichristianity, and practical if not theoretical atheism. The penalty has been stupendous, and, therefore, God commissions the dreadful scourge of war.

The wars of the nations cost them in one year more than has been expended in Bible distribution or in Foreign Missions for a thousand years. Great Britain has through war piled up a debt, the interest of which costs her Twenty-seven millions sterling every year. The United States pay a much larger sum as interest for their war-debt. The French and Germans in the present war have wasted and destroyed more than would be sufficient to carry the Gospel to the whole world. If the wealth, the energy, and the human life consumed in this one war were consecrated to the service of the Prince of Peace, O how soon would the aspect of the world be changed for the better! But, for the service of the Prince of Peace, in the work of Foreign Missions, all the churches contribute not much over One Million sterling per annum. One day’s war between France and Germany costs more than the whole contribution of Christendom for the evangelization of the heathen. Is it any wonder that a majority of the human race still sit in total moral darkness?

Brethren! our coasts, our homes, are desolated by no war. For more than fifty years we have enjoyed all the blessings of peace. Are we bringing forth the fruits of peace? As God has very highly favoured us, let us show our gratitude by doing all in our power to sustain and establish the Gospel among ourselves, and to send it in the fulness of blessings temporal and spiritual to those who still sit in darkness. One day’s war, one day’s fleeing before the enemy, would cost our country a thousand times more than all that we now give to the cause of Christ.

OUR AGADIAN MISSION.

We have been requested to furnish a few facts and explanations respecting this mission for the information of our people generally, many of whom do not see the minutes