

were inspired, unless it were certain that the sacred writers were always under the supernatural direction of the Spirit, and were never permitted to use their faculties in the ordinary way. But we have no reason to believe that the gift of inspiration was constant, nor does any person think, because some of the writings of Solomon were inspired, that his thousand and five songs, and his treatises on plants and animals were ever considered as canonical Scripture. Our Lord, who reproved with so much fidelity whatever was amiss in the conduct of the Jews, never charged them with having permitted any portion of revelation to perish; and he seems to assure us of the integrity of the Hebrew Scriptures, when he says that "not one jot, nor one tittle, shall pass from the law, till all be fulfilled:"* for the *Law* signifies in this place, agreeably to the sense of the word in many other passages, not the five books of Moses alone, but the whole system of doctrines and precepts, which had been delivered to the Church; or what is called more distinctly in the preceding verse, the Law and the Prophets. If we believe in a providence, vigilant, active, and almighty, we can no more allow ourselves to think that it would permit any part of revelation, which was intended to be a complete and perpetual rule of faith, to be lost, than that it would suffer the light of the sun to be extinguished. The productions of human genius and eloquence may perish, and the very names of their authors be forgotten; but the oracles of heaven shall last till all the purposes for which they were given are accomplished.—*Dick.*

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ON WAR.

MR. EDITOR,—I am not one of those who declare that all war is un-

lawful and unscriptural; for my belief is that defensive war is right and proper, and not at variance with the Bible; and that, therefore, when our country and home are invaded, as at the present time, by bands of armed brigands and vagabonds, we should not tamely submit to have our property destroyed, and ourselves and families turned out homeless and penniless to encounter the rigours of a Northern Winter, but that all the strong and the healthy, who are able to undergo the necessary fatigues and exposure of preparing to meet the enemy when called on, should not hesitate to enrol themselves for this purpose, for I conceive that it is not only right but their *duty* to do so. And it is a sense of duty that has induced many in both Provinces to enrol themselves as Volunteers for mutual defence. But there is one thing I lament to see prevailing to a painful extent, even amongst those who profess to be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus—and that is, a manifest *pleasure and delight* in the trappings of war, in the war-inspiring sound of drums and trumpets and military pageants, that are now so often seen in our (formerly quiet) streets. It is painful to witness the feelings of revenge that are abroad, to see how the morals of the community are injured by attention to the exciting and stirring events of war. It is a painful sight to the lover of peace to see a peaceful community compelled by necessity to leave the quiet avocations, and every day duties of life, to engage in scenes of conflict and strife, to see the worst passions of our corrupt nature brought into action. But to the Christian it is a more painful sight to see professed followers of the Prince of Peace taking pleasure in such scenes; yet such is the case. The present are trying times; and should therefore call for more watchfulness and prayer on the part of those who are in the midst of

* Matt. v. 18.