

preparation and without warning into the presence of the supreme Judge, has something inexpressibly awful and affecting." Since the commencement of these hostilities not less than 200,000 human beings in one way and another, have perished. Yes, 200,000 human beings, to whom life was as dear as it is to us, have been prematurely swept into the grave; each of whose death has wrung the heart of a mother, a wife, a sister; or the hearts of a large circle of friends. And so numerous have been these scenes of complicated distress that there are doubtless some parts of Europe in which scarcely a family is exempt. Then look at the richness of the spoils of death in time of war. Under other circumstances, the victims of death are usually the feeble and the aged, who according to appearances or the course of nature, cannot expect to live long. But it is otherwise in war. The young, the healthy, and the active are struck down. Some one has said, "In peace children bury their parents, but in war parents bury their children." Nor is the difference small. There is much to moderate the sorrow of a young person on losing an aged parent, however revered; but for such a parent to be bereaved of his children is to lose his only earthly consolation. How affecting are the circumstances of a widowed mother, while she "weeps for her children and will not be comforted, because they are not."

"What a scene must a battle-field present, where thousands are left without assistance and without pity, with their wounds exposed to the piercing air,