

merchant ships are prevented from freely traversing the great highways of the sea. The publication of books of a higher order is curtailed by reason of the prevailing excitement of the public mind, while the press is prolific of hurried works more or less related to the great topic which now monopolises attention. Our passions are agitated by what we read in the newspapers, and what we hear in the streets. Through some such means do the influences coming from this war press upon us all, for better or for worse.

Restraint is demanded — self-restraint. Our feelings have been outraged by the unscrupulous ambition of the great disturber of Europe, by his profane use of the name of the Christian religion in his designs, and by repeated accounts of terrible destruction of human life in battle. Our hopes have been clouded, so far as they have been accustomed to look for a permanent pacific civilization, by his late provocation to war. With feelings thus outraged, and hopes thus disappointed, we are prone to go beyond the limits of a just indignation, in the desire for revenge, though that revenge should involve still more barbarity, and still more blood. I think I am not wrong in saying that such a desire springs up very readily and very naturally in many of us. But it must be remembered that its tendency is, so far as it has hold on us, to bring us down to that very barbarian level from which we made our first recoil. Here let us take care. Here let us look to the peaceful and benignant Christ. Here let us yield ourselves to his guidance, and submit our souls to the just and gracious restraints which his law imposes.

This war is a dark blot on the civilization of the nineteenth century. But we must not close our eyes to some