

influence of its ordinary lessons on the hearts and consciences of individuals—and the measure will first be carried on in one country, not by the unhallowed violence of discontent, but by the controul of general opinion, expressed on the part of a people, who, if Christian, in their repugnance to war, will be equally Christian in all the loyalties and subjections, and meek unresisting virtues of the New Testament—and the sacred fire of good-will to the children of men will spread itself through all climes and through all latitudes—and thus by scriptural truth conveyed with power from one people to another, and taking its ample round among all the tribes and families of the earth, shall we arrive at the magnificent result of peace throughout all its provinces, and security in all its dwelling places.”

In prosecuting his subject, Dr. Chalmers first expatiates on the evils of war, secondly mentions the obstacles which stand in the way of its extinction, and thirdly points out some of the expedients by which these obstacles may be done away. Under the first head he remarks “ War has been invested with a most pernicious splendour, and men have offered to justify it as a blessing and an ornament to society, and attempts have been made to throw a kind of imposing morality around it ; and one might almost be reconciled to the whole train of its calamities and its horrors, did he not believe his Bible, and learn from its information, that in the days of perfect righteousness, there will be no war ;—that so soon as the character of man has had the last finish of Christian principle thrown over it, from that moment all the instruments of war will be thrown aside, and all its lessons will be forgotten ;—that, therefore, what are called the virtues of war are no virtues at all, or that a better and a worthier scene will be provided for their exercise ;—but in short, that at the commencement of that blissful era, when the reign of Heaven shall be established, war will take its departure from the world with all the other plagues and atrocities of the species.

But apart altogether from this testimony to the evil of war, let us just take a direct look of it, and see whether we can find its character engraven on the aspect it bears to the eye of an attentive observer. The stoutest heart of this assembly would recoil, were he who owns it, to behold the destruction of a single individual by some.