

glory. She takes a hostile attitude towards all moral evil, and meditates a violent rupture and revolution of all hearts and societies. Christ said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on the earth. I came not to send peace, but a sword." Though the Prince of peace, though the Author of the gospel of peace, yet He wages a war of conquest against the nations of the earth, and a war of extermination against all sin. The Church is spoken to as an embattled host, clad in the armour of God. Her weapons are not carnal but spiritual, and mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. The arena of this battle is not without, but within. Its nature is not bodily and carnal, but spiritual and holy. It is a crusade against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Its object is not to reform laws and governments, but to supplant the kingdom of darkness and sin, by setting up the kingdom of God in the heart, whose laws and animus are righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. The leader is no human chieftain, but the Captain of our salvation :—

"Who brings a liberty, unsung  
By poets, by senators unpraised,  
Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers  
Of earth and hell confederate, take away.  
A liberty which persecution, fraud,  
Oppression, prisons, have no power to bind,  
Which whoso tastes can be enslaved no more.  
'Tis liberty of heart derived from heaven,  
Bought with His blood who gave it to mankind,  
And sealed it with the same token."

*The Church is the seat of purity.*—Her body of truth, her system of instrumentalities, her sacrificial commemorations, her spiritual and divine endowments, were all appointed to evolve holiness, to operate the perfect salvation

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