

life that rejected prudential standing and refused to be cautious. In its various assertions of purpose there was evidence of the strong human nature, proof of the pull of merely material considerations even upon our Lord. "Get thee behind Me, Satan," are the words of One not untouched by the setting forward and by the snare of the easier way. But He claimed the right to throw away His life if the object were adequate. He set forth His own purpose as a general statement. No life was saved that was not lost, and it was hard even for Him to put into the sacrifice of the Cross His own knowledge and faith.

There never is any easy way of doing the things that are worth doing. There comes a point when only sacrifice will secure the result; personal, not vicarious sacrifice. Do you remember how our hearts shrank from it when we were told that victory could only be achieved by a military decision on the Western Front? Our experience at that time had been confined to the retreat from Mons, and the first battle of Ypres; the abortive struggle of Neuve Chapelle, and the tragedy of incoordination at Loos. A military decision! The thing seemed to be impossible; but the leaders were right. It was only by sacrifice that the war could be won. So far as the Canadians were concerned, the Salient, the Somme, Vimy, the mud of Passchendaele, Arras, Amiens, Cambrai, these desperate struggles marked the way to the final victory, but on the road blood was shed like water and our long Roll of Honour is our witness to some of those saints who made the covenant with God by sacrifice.

There are men here, I know, who will bear me out when I say that there was on those days of active service a liberty of spirit such as they never before experienced. For the world was behind their backs. They had made the great decision. Whatever might come to them would find them not surprised and not unprepared. And behind it all, even in the case of men of our stock who refused to analyze their motives, there was the sense that here was a quest wholly unselfish; a struggle that meant for them but horror and