

and which, alas ! attracts but scant attention. What to us the marshalling of armies, the shock of battle, the dissolution of an empire, compared with the fate of our own souls ? The Church has ever been militant ; and every true member within her pale must wear the badge of war to the very end. In this warfare we have a stake, the importance of which cannot be exaggerated. We are rebels, and Christ has commissioned prophets, apostles, evangelists, to induce us to enlist under His banner, to be "reconciled to God," to become soldiers of the cross, members of Christ's body which is the Church. He pleads with us, urges us, uses every motive and persuasive to induce us to lay down the arms of our rebellion. He has afforded us the fullest proof that persistence in rebellion will end in death and everlasting ruin ; while pardon and all the rewards of victory are infallibly secured to all who join His army and fight under His command.

In our warfare as individual christians we have Christ as our Exemplar, as the Captain of our Salvation ; stronger therefore is He that is for us than all who are against us. Temptations, weakness, lusts, besetting sins, foes from without and from within, will all be overcome through His might.—His soldiers are victors whether they fall pierced by the fatal bullet on the battle field, or the victims of the treacherous assault of the assassin, or are swallowed up by the whelming waves of the sea, or breathe out their peaceful souls amid the quiet of the familiar homestead, or are borne in chariots of flame, without tasting of death, to the mansions of eternal rest. Soldiers though led by the greatest earthly generals, by Napoleon, Wellington, or Colin Campbell, cannot be assured of victory or of life. Mohammed promised Paradise to all who fought and fell in his cause : he promised falsely ; yet see what his followers achieved even under the inspiration of falsehood ! And see what men will dare and do even when they fight uncertainly ! What should not be our boldness in contending with sin when we know that we are eternally safe ! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him.

The christian life is never ripened or perfected except in union with the Church of the living God. Each of us is but *one* in a vast army : the battle is not mine alone : millions have fought it before me ; millions are fighting it now. The brunt of battle fell long ago to the lot of my CAPTAIN who proved Himself more powerful than all the forces of Hell and of a fallen world. Each christian is aided by the prayers and efforts of every other : we are a great family, and brother helps brother while Christ is precious and helpful to all.

As a Church then we have a battle to fight, a life-long struggle to maintain. We must fight it in every nook and corner of these Provinces, and wherever else our Master opens a breach before us. The high towers of ignorance, spiritual pride, superstition, intemperance, must be assailed without pause or truce. The beautiful towers of our Zion are in some places sadly defaced ; the enemy is at our gates ; yea he has climbed in at our windows and sown the seeds of treason and ruin where all should be loyalty and love. Search him out—seize him—hurl him away forever ! In the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, whose we are and whom we serve, let us be as one man in our conflict with Satan and his hosts. Let brotherly love continue ; let not strife exist between the servants of the Lord. Our battle is but beginning ; we are just opening our eyes to the greatness of the work. While my hand can grasp the two-edged sword—while my head can sustain the helmet—while my eye can behold the banner of the Crucified One—so long must I wage this warfare. So long as there is an unconverted soul