

baneful and blighting influences of cruel war.

Can any one, in the face of these stern facts, bring forward one substantial and convincing argument in favor of war being a benefit to the world? How is it that Christian nations have become involved in so many wars when, undeniably, it is at variance with their professions of faith. Probably the reason that war has been so indulged in up to the present time, is because sufficiently deep thought and close inquiry has never been given it. The pomp and circumstances of war has been interwoven into our thoughts and associations since our earliest recollections, we have become accustomed with the accounts of battles fought and great victories won, soldiers and armed troops moving around amongst us; therefore they have all become familiar objects in our minds. We have not paused to consider whether these things should be or not. We have acquiesced in them as we do in the rising of the sun, with no other idea than that it is a part of the ordinary processes of the world.

Want of enquiry has been the means by which long continued practices have obtained the general concurrence of the world, and by which they have continued to degrade it, long after the few who have enquired into their nature have discovered them to be evil. Through this same cause was the slave trade so long allowed to exist in this land of humanity, but, when men were induced to take it into consideration, it was abhorred and finally abolished.

So let us hope it may be the case with war.

It is an observant fact that the world is gradually getting its eyes opened to the sinful enormities of war, and when they do they must find that their previous conclusions regarding its justice and lawfulness were based upon no evidence capable of proof.

It is nearly nineteen hundred years since men first adopted this religion,

the sacred birth of whose founder and head we celebrate on this day, and whom we are pleased to designate as the

PRINCE OF PEACE.

It was announced as a religion which was intended to bring Peace on earth and good will among men, and yet after all these years the peace on earth has not come, and the good will among men is only partial and occasionally exhibited. Amongst nations we find little trace of it, though centuries have passed away since that royal proclamation issued from the throats of the herald angels, and floated softly away on the midnight air, across the plains of Bethlehem.

Dr. Adam Clarke tells us that war is as contrary to the spirit of Christianity as murder.

In the Book of Exodus, xx. chap., xiii. verse, we find God's word written: "Thou shalt not kill." These words forming the sixth one of the ten commandments which he gave to the children of men by the hand of his servant Moses, graven on tablets of stone.

Pure Christianity is undoubtedly the only true remedy for war, and by the signs of our times, let us hope we may be fully justified in believing that advancement is certainly being made in the world to that end, slowly, no doubt, but nevertheless surely. Individually we may not be able to do much, we think, to put away these many evils which we have amongst us, and which must be wholly and totally eradicated before all nations, and people shall be united in one holy and loving brotherhood, but let us not forget that whatsoever we do in a right spirit, be it ever so little, will be acceptable in the eyes of God, our Maker.

Let us each, therefore, do our utmost to help along that blessed and glorious time of which the Prophet Isaiah writes in the 4th verse of 2nd chap., when he tells us: "They shall beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against