

is the very truth of God, and it is of the greatest importance that it should be carefully lodged in the minds of our children.

The field on which you can draw for instructing and interesting the children under your charge is very extensive—the Old and New Testament, Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs, the Shorter Catechism, and perhaps other simpler Catechisms. The same glorious truths shine through all these. Christ is the central Sun to whose light you desire to draw the little ones. Christ is the beginning and the end of every lesson and of every song of praise.—The Lessons on which Notes are to be found elsewhere relate to the Life of Christ. They should be deeply interesting to every human soul. The children cannot be made too familiar with them.

WAR AND THE GOSPEL.

God is shaking terribly the earth. Not a week of the past six months has passed without bearing us tidings of bloodshed and battle. The scourge of war has swept over one-half of France, and the area of the strife daily threatens to become wider. Other nations, our own among the number, are in danger of becoming involved. We stand with awe on the brink of a crater; we know not how soon its thunder will waken or its red lava burst in resistless volume over the ground which we occupy. Why is this possible in christian lands and in this year of grace? What can we say of the boasted civilization of our age, or of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

War is rather a symptom than a disease: the disease is the sin that rules in our unregenerate hearts. True, war is a most awful symptom, but the disease which *originates such a symptom must be still more dreadful*. The raging fever indicates a diseased frame; the hurricane and the thunder-storm tell of previous derangement and deadly impurity of the atmosphere; and much in like manner war comes in consequence of diseases and fatal disorders in the body politic. The misery caused by it is inconceivably great. The consideration of its horrors brings most im-

pressively under our view the degradation and wickedness of our fallen state. Think of houses burned, men, women and children starving and perishing with cold; think of thousands slain, and think of ten thousands prostrated with deadly wounds; think of the ruined fortunes, the broken hearts, the bloodshed, the heaps of corpses! If such are the symptoms, what must be the disease itself in all its dark reality!

Yet God makes the wrath of man to praise Him. We can see His arm in the war now raging. He is rebuking iniquity, idolatry, and atheism. He is avenging the blood of His servants slain in other days by pitiless fanatics. He is teaching France the folly of her proud infidelity and bigoted superstition and fanaticism. Three hundred years ago, France rejected the Gospel and human liberty, and chose tyranny and superstition. She slew or expatriated her best and truest sons. And now she is paying the penalty in abundant measure. She needs to day, O how sadly, the brave and honest children of brave and good fathers, such as she slew on St. Bartholomew's—such as she banished under the reign of Louis XIV.,—such as she systematically oppressed for three centuries. She needed this awful ordeal, this purifying in the furnace of affliction. She gave her power to promote the ends of the Papacy, with but few short interruptions, for the past thousand years. After this trial she will be readier to hear the Gospel in its purity than ever she was before.

Germany too is learning a much-needed lesson from the war. Her people, from the new-made Emperor downwards, acknowledge the hand of God in their victories. The churches throughout the land are thronged with devout worshippers as they have not been since the era of the Reformation. The spirit of Protestantism is also making itself felt even in bitterly Roman Catholic Bavaria.

Austria learned five years ago that her weakness lay in her subserviency to the Papal power and to the enervating leadership of a narrow minded hierarchy. Since 1866 the Gospel has made more progress in the Austrian Empire than during the