

righteous God will require them. Did it appear, that the present war is just, necessary and expedient, however much we might deplore the evils attending it, every patriot would heartily contribute his influence to give it vigor and success. But no war, which is not strictly defensive, can ever be waged on principles of rectitude. In their treatment of each other, nations, no less than individuals, are bound by the law of God, as explained by an unerring Expositor. Revenge, or rendering evil for evil, is totally repugnant to christianity. On christian principles, the practice of duelling, or retaliating injuries in any form, can as easily be justified, as an offensive war.

Again. If such are the distress and pernicious effects of war, how critical and solemn is the situation of the rulers of nations! By a single act, they may occasion the temporal and eternal ruin of thousands or millions. If they plunge the nation into an unnecessary and unrighteous war, they are accountable for all the blood and misery the war may occasion. They need your prayers.

In view of the whole subject, who can doubt, that we have abundant reason, this day, for humiliation and prayer? God is angry. The cry of our iniquities has reached to heaven, and the Almighty has come down to punish our ingratitude and rebellion. But if we penitently return unto him, he will graciously return unto us.