

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE.

Thus the conflict between Jesus and the Prince of this world continues. Still we have to wrestle against the rulers of the darkness of this world. Still the Kingdom of God is a far away melody. The wrongs and cruelties of this *land of peace* are apparent to every one who has eyes to see, and they must be grievous in the sight of God, as are the cruelties of war. In the sorrows of the poor, in the injustice to the down-trodden, in the contempt for Christian truth, in the many social wrongs, in the rivalries of the Church in the great mission of bringing Christ to the world, in the waywardness and irreligion of our sinful hearts, we may find opportunities for putting on the whole armour of Christ and providing ourselves with this "moral equivalent for war."

The Church has not been sufficiently aroused to the true state of the world. She has not felt as she should the burden of her Master, who was moved with compassion when He saw us like sheep without a shepherd. She has acquiesced in existing conditions as inevitable and beyond reformation, or in her undue love for peace she has sometimes defended existing inequalities, and taken the side against those who were struggling to remove the unfair advantage of wealth and influence. The Church has not always bent down like an angel of mercy to hear the cry of the oppressed and the forsaken. How many are there who wait beneath the dull shadows of sorrow, poverty or despair, who see no ray of hope in the sombre sky, but who are none the less the very ones for whom Jesus came! He came to preach deliverance to the captive and recovering of sight to the blind, and to proclaim the message "of joy in widest commonalty spread."

The Christian disciple is to go out as a member of an army prepared to do battle with all the aggressors of evil. We must not plead the invincibility of sin, or the weakness of our forces. We must pull down the stronghold of vice and cruelty, and realize with clear knowledge that as long as we are in the world and desire to follow Jesus, we are in a state of war. "I came not to bring peace, but a sword."

II.

HUMAN ENDURANCE.

If the war has laid bare the powers of evil it has also revealed to us the capacities of endurance and sacrifice that lie dormant in human souls. Some had come to fear that