

the noble, the mansion of the wealthy, equally as at the cottage of the humble; and it is on behalf of all these classes that I make this solemn appeal." His statement that the war "could not be justified out of the documents" laid before the house was followed by the memorable prophecy referred to above: "Impartial history will teach this to posterity, if we do not understand it now."

And what came of the war? Fourteen years later Russia took unobstructed the privileges and powers that the western nations denied her before and sacrificed thousands of noble lives to debar her of. And all the blood-shed and misery caused by the Crimean war gain nothing. But Bright who took no part in the war will have greater glory from it than the victors of Balaklava and Inkermann. He stood alone when the war fever ran high and it is now recognized that he stood alone in the right. By it he was spurred to the highest pitch of eloquence and was raised superior as an orator to all others of his time and worthy a place beside Pitt and Burke and Fox and Sheridan. He lost no opportunity of impressing the nation with the utter unchristianness of war and the high and holy principles of peace. As a sample of his eloquence we will quote a passage from a speech in Edinburgh:

"Within the limits of this island alone, on every Sabbath, 20,000, yea, far more than 20,000 temples are thrown open, in which devout men and women assemble that they may worship Him who is the 'Prince of Peace' Is this reality, or is your Christianity a romance? Is your profession a dream? No, I am sure that your Christianity is not a romance, and I am equally sure that your profession is not a dream. It is because I believe this that I appeal to you with confidence, and that I have hope and faith in the future. I believe that we shall see, and at no very distant time, sound economic principles spreading much more widely among the

people; a sense of justice growing up in a soil which hitherto has been deemed unfruitful; and which will be better than all—the churches of the United Kingdom, the churches of Britain awaking, as it were, from their slumbers, and girding up their loins to more glorious work, when they shall not only accept and believe in the prophecy, but labor earnestly for its fulfilment, that there shall come a time—a blessed time—a time which shall last for ever, when 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'"

An estimate of his many gifts may be gleaned from a short poem that appeared in a magazine many years ago, when his exertions and achievements for free trade, for a redistribution of electoral districts, an extension of the franchise and his fervent and sublime appeals for peace were fresh in the minds of the people:

The bold asserter of the people's rights,
The conqueror in many a glorious cause
Dragging monopoly and bigotry,
And old misrule, like unclean birds of prey,
From their high nests and antiquated perches,
And trampling them beneath his scornful feet:
Frightening the cormorants of Church and State.

Shaping anew the form of government;
Making his enemies to do his bidding,
Sending the trimmers to Adullam's cave,
And giving breadth and strength to popular rule,
A man of many gifts. Rich every way;
Rich with an ever-teeming intellect,
Cultured and balanced by long exercise,
Endowed with burring eloquence of speech,
Yet with a soul attuned to poetry.
A bold true man with something of the lion
Depicted in his broad and massive head;
A man to stand before the cannon's mouth
Of opposition and unjust abuse—
Not to be purchased not to be cajoled,
Not to be daunted by the fear of man—
A heart devoted to his country's good!

Bright was never a slavish adherent to any political party. He carried the independence of spirit that his religion especially engenders, as well as its principles, through all his political course. He was a Free Trader when many of the leaders of the