

O Lord our God ! arise,  
 Scatter our enemies,  
 And make them fall !  
 Confound their politics,  
 Frustrate their knavish tricks,  
 Our hopes on Thee we fix,  
 God save the Queen !

The occasion serves to test certain principles which seem very plausible in times of peace. It is said, that you cannot love your enemy when you are shooting him dead. But to love our neighbour in the large and true sense, means to love *every* neighbour, and kindness to the many often involves harshness to the few. It is not true kindness to a man to allow him to steal and kill unchecked ; while it is base cruelty to the weak to stand by and allow the strong to trample them down. God has "ordained powers" to "bear the sword," "avengers to execute wrath ;" an army is but an external police ; peace principles, logically carried out, forbid the baton as much as the bayonet. "God is love ;" yet He is a consuming fire : Christ is love ; yet "the wrath of the Lamb" is the most terrible of all wraths : and heaven is love ; yet there they sing hallelujahs over the destruction of God's enemies. Mercy without justice is as unlike God as justice without mercy. These have been times in which we learned to understand those imprecatory psalms, which, may be, have often staggered us ; to see why so good a man as David prayed thus concerning his enemies, the enemies of his country and of his God,—and how, in so praying, he was "moved by the Holy Ghost" to speak as a son of thunder, as much as when anon he filled the part of a "son of consolation." We may also see a strong light cast on certain parts of the Divine administration which often appear dark to us, especially on the punishment due to sin,—that high treason against the Majesty on high, that destroyer of the peace and joy of the universe. This indignation against wanton wrong, and this stern desire for its sharp and swift repression, that have swept through our souls as resistlessly as a mountain torrent, should brace us up to stronger and profounder views of law, sin and penalty.

There is no doubt left in our minds, therefore, as to the Christian duty of meeting force with force. Death and wounds, hunger and thirst, and other like hardships, are terrible things for our noble volunteers to suffer,—but the overrunning of our country by a horde of ruffians, the leaving of our women and children to their mercy, the repression of every manly instinct in our own hearts, the contempt of America, and the shame of England, would be evils immeasurably greater still. There is danger of demoralization in the camp, of the war-spirit mounting too high, and of the unnatural excitement injuring public morals in many ways ; therefore we pray earnestly that these days may be shortened : but we should run into other and worse dangers by allowing our enemies to pluck this jewel from Victoria's crown ; and Canada will be a more christian country under the red cross, than it could ever be under the green flag !