

against his stock until its final extinction. It was not merely that Ahab had slain an innocent man; it was that he had flouted the rights of humanity; he had sinned against the traditions of the fathers; he had uprooted a household from its seat and broken in wantonness the ties between the citizen and his ancestral land, apart from which he had no place in Israel. Our men died that a crime of the same nature although a million-fold greater might receive its just reward. They fought for the liberties of the world, and we who have been spared must see to it that they shall not have fought in vain.

The sacrifice of our friends has brought back to the world the real meaning of religion, "My saints, those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." But the other day, for many men not heedless of their ways, religion was a mere convention. They may have misunderstood it. Perhaps they never sought to understand it. Perhaps it had never been presented to them as having in it any note of a crusade. They understood it to deal with creeds which they did not feel could be to them a real issue, or with negations which might very well be observed apart altogether from so elaborate a system of things as the Christian Church presented. The Gospel read without commentary or elision had many straight things to say and implied certain claims which the Christian religion, reduced to a system, appeared to ignore. Whenever a faith was turned into a system it lost its soul. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace but a sword." Whatever the context, that did not appear to give much support to a great many namby-pambyisms and social timidities that hid themselves under the guise of charity and a Christian spirit. "He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." Again, on the face of it, there was nothing here to encourage the endowment assurance view of life. And in its broad outline the life of Christ was not a story dealing with the relevance of genealogies or the possibility of miracle. It was the story of a