

often ask Him what He would have us do to succour them in their distress.

Nor can we release ourselves from the injunction to "remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them." We have no right to be unmoved by the sorrows of our famine-stricken fellow subjects in India, by the national wrong-doing involved in the continued permission by our Government of the Opium trade with China and of slavery in East Africa, or by the degradation of those who, even in our own dear land, are the victims of strong drink, or enchained by gambling, impurity, and other vices.

Our sympathy goes out to those, in our own and in other communities, whose hearts are bowed under the burden of the present awful war, with its vast expenditure of blood and treasure, and the fearful consequences which it threatens in the moral deterioration of our people. We are not unmindful of the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by many who have risked life and everything at what they felt to be the call of duty; but we fail to see how any war can be waged in the spirit of Jesus Christ, or how those who have enrolled themselves as His soldiers can take the lives of their brothers whom He came to redeem. We have issued a separate appeal on this subject, and commend it to the dispassionate and prayerful consideration of all who are willing to read it.

In the face of the sadness produced by conditions at which we have thus hinted, what should be the attitude of Christian believers to-day? Are they to wrap themselves in a mantle of self-complacency, content to believe that they "are of God," even if "the whole world lieth in the evil one"? Must they bow in gloomy sorrow, as though it were useless to contend with the inevitable; or dare they make the old, wicked excuse, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Is not this the very time to show ourselves good soldiers of Jesus Christ, ready to endure hardness for His sake, trusting absolutely in His leadership, sure that He will make every faithful follower a sharer of His victory? When the disciples were "distressed in rowing," their Deliverer was nearer than they knew. Even when He came to their rescue, they failed to recognise Him and His presence increased their fear; but, when they were willing "to receive Him into the boat," their troubles ceased, and with grateful joy they "worshipped Him, saying, 'Of a truth thou art the Son of God.'"

So, dear friends who are in distress through the proving of your