

whelming majorities of Jew and Gentile, that they quietly submitted to cruel tortures and death ; but even when they far outnumbered their adversaries, when the faith and courage which enabled them so patiently to suffer and die would have achieved a victory by force; but the victory they gained was far more glorious. It was the triumph of principle, and teaches us that the idea of conquering a savage enemy by patience and love, is not the wild imagining of an enthusiast, but has been successful in the past, and may be again (should the hour of trial come): so that it is our duty to exert every effort to overcome evil with good. It appears to have been the opinion of many of the early Christians, and also of some at the present day, that war is not justifiable under any circumstances. I cannot accord with this view of the matter.

The Bible, as a whole, leads to the conclusion that although war is wrong in itself, yet God has not only permitted it, but has used it to carry out His great designs from the earliest ages to the present time, and made the wrath of man to praise Him. We have been led to believe, from Genesis to Revelation, that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but that to Him alone belongs the power and the glory. We have, as a people, reason to believe that the good hand of our God has been upon us, and that our victorious armies and navies have been powerful, though indirect instruments, for the furtherance of the gospel in almost every part of the world. Idolatrous nations have been brought under our influence, and the political and the religious power of the Papacy humbled to the dust. Passive resistance is not always successful. Rome's bloody massacre on St. Bartholomew's day almost destroyed Protestantism in France. The Inquisition in Spain too well and successfully performed its awful work, and crushed the truth and Spain beneath its iron heel. Had the Spanish Armada in the reign of Elizabeth been successful, the result would have been something awful to contemplate. The war in the Netherlands crippled the champion of Rome, and, coupled with the disasters of the Armada, caused Spain to fall from the zenith of its glory to a low and helpless condition. France took its place, but the results were much the same. Alison's words are : " Had a power, animated by the ambition, guided by the fanaticism, and directed by the ability of Louis XIV., gained the ascendancy in Europe, beyond all question, a universal despotic dominion would have been established over the bodies, and a cruel spiritual thralldom over the minds of men."

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