

will arise reasons for *gratitude* to the Almighty Ruler; and for *preserving peace*, "as much as lieth in us," as much and as long as possible.

The blessings of peace consist firstly and chiefly in exemption from the evils and miseries of war; and this exemption is most clearly and strongly perceived and felt, when it is recent.

I. We must, therefore, consider some of the evils, from which we, and mankind, are recently delivered.

Think of seven or eight hundred thousands, or a million of men, drawn together to destroy one another, with all their might and skill, and with the most forcible instruments of destruction. Think of all the men of military age in these United States, or of all the white men of twenty years of age and upward, drawn together for this sanguinary purpose. These vast numbers were engaged not only in one battle, but in many battles through a campaign. These wars were carried on not only through one year, but many years, twenty years, as many as twenty of these latter years. In some of these battles, probably, as many as sixty or seventy thousands have been killed or wounded. The battles have been frequent, and numerous, and fierce, and obstinate, and destructive, to an unparalleled degree. Then we must take into the account the mortal diseases of a camp, and the many sufferings of warfare. I think, it has been said, that a quarter part of the armies perish in a year; and sometimes in these wars the half, or the greater part. To this shocking account we must add the dreadful distresses, the famine, the ruin of the countries, through which the "overflowing scourge" passes; cities demolished, fields, regions laid desolate, and the inhabitants ruined; all the works, and arts, and joys, and comforts of man beaten down and trampled in the dust. "And woe to the conquered;" woe, woe, woe to the conquered; one woe is past, and another and another woe cometh! The countries, from which the powers of war are drawn, men, money, provisions, are