

It is a fact with which every student of history is familiar, that nearly all nations, more particularly those called christian, are at this moment groaning under the heavy burden of national indebtedness, which has been the accumulation of years, and is admittedly, to a great extent, the consequence of a preparation for, or engagement in, actual warfare; although a large majority of those interested, may be as infatuated as ever; upon the subject of military operations, and as willing as their predecessors to increase those burdens by augmenting the national liabilities, for these questionable purposes, under the mistaken notion of patriotism and duty. Yet, it can scarcely be doubted, but that the time will come when those grievous pecuniary burdens will be viewed from a different stand-point; and will then be regarded as a melancholy evidence of the folly and Anti-Christian usages of a by-gone age.

It surely is a lamentable consideration, that while the public funds are doled out with a parsimonious hand, (comparatively speaking,) to feed the poor—clothe the naked—raise the humbler classes of all nations from ignorance and its oft consequent effects, crime, and fit them for their several duties, as peaceful and law-abiding citizens of the State, that the same funds are not only spent with a liberal hand, but even in reckless profusion, to teach a professedly christian population the most complete mode of human slaughter. Now, we solemnly appeal to the purer feelings of every spiritual christian, who must believe the truth of the apostolic declaration, that "God is love:" 1st John, chap. 4; 16 ver., and ask him to query with himself whether the present course of the nations of the earth in their efforts to cultivate a military spirit is at all in harmony with the professed spirit of the boasted christian civilization of this enlightened time? or whether it is not a retrograde movement more in accordance with the barbarous usages of a by-gone age, where an Alexander was said to weep because he had no more worlds to conquer, and when the highest ambition of the most refined heathen ruler was to make every man a soldier? We respectfully ask attention for a moment to the position of a soldier, presuming that individual responsibility to the Great Supreme will be freely conceded: and in view of that responsibility, how is it possible for any man to pledge himself, by oath or otherwise, to yield unreserved obedience to the will of another; and as military discipline requires this indisputable obedience, and as military operations could not successfully be carried on without it, does it not plainly follow that when a professed christian becomes a soldier he makes a deliberate attempt to achieve a Scriptural impossibility? viz:—that of serving two masters.—Matthew, chap. 6; ver. 24.