

pressure of an adverse tide, but to the man who clings to it as to life itself, no amount of popular opposition can prevail to undo his grasp. Firmly persuaded of the divine origin of truth, and sweetly enjoying its more than golden fruit, the believer refuses to part with the beginning of his confidence. As a drowning man holds on by the rope thrown to him as a means of deliverance, as the heroic banner-bearer refuses to yield up the ensign he has sworn to defend, as the mariner throws not overboard in mid ocean his compass and charts, so the soul influenced by truth, clings with a giant's hold to the truth which saves and sets the sinner free. To slip this anchor is to suffer shipwreck. To sell this birthright is to sink in deepest degradation. No inducements can prevail to alter the chosen course, no rewards can bribe from sworn fidelity. Having proved the truth, the soul holds fast that which is good.

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### THE WAR SPIRIT.

It is worth a few moments calm reflection for a Christian solemnly to review the sad accompaniments of war, that a correct view of the fearful evils issuing therefrom may impress the mind. There is an amount of excitement in reading the details of a fight, cloaked over as the carnage is by the masterly use of battle-phrases, that requires to be carefully watched lest an unhallowed fire is kindled in a heart where love should reign supreme. We apprehend that to the Christian mind there is nothing in War itself but unmitigated evil. It has been a scourge of God—it is a dire necessity. True patriotism is enlightened, and therefore with heathen song, and glowing poetry drawn from an impure fountain of carnality, it has no sympathy. However glowing the imagery with which the pride, and pomp, and circumstance of war is sung, it fails to be seen as “glorious war.” For every battle is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood. The old Roman patriotism had much in it to be condemned, it sprung from selfishness, it revelled in the expression of depravity. Its object was to aggrandise Rome at the expense of liberty, and peace, and prosperity to other nations. True Christianity leads us to a recognition of the rights of our fellowmen. It holds forth the olive branch of peace. It toils for a blessing to come down on all flesh. Hence when the claims of a country to which a Christian belongs, appear to statesmen and the Chief Magistrate to demand the interference of the sword, it is not with an exulting spirit that he views the stern necessity. There is nothing on which the Christian's eye can rest with satisfaction in war. The scenes of her stern march pass with horror in review. There is no beautiful picture in the forms of weeping and desolation and woe which fill a country which has become the theatre of strife. There is no music in the shrieks of the wounded, and the groans of the dying. Ruined cities, depopulated towns, smoking villages, fields no longer yielding increase to the husbandman, desolated homes, widowed hearts, orphans' cries, these are the results of war. Can it be glory to spread havoc and carnage over the fairest scenes of earth? Surely it is not the heavenly dove, but a vulture hell-born that spreads her wings over the fields of the slain. It being so, with what care must the spirit be watched to check the uprisings of pride, malice, and revenge. Christians of different countries, while they owe a brave and honest allegiance to the government under which they dwell, must discountenance and frown down