

CHRISTIANITY AND WAR

war may be secured by commercial or financial interests for a time. But war may be nobler than such peace, as the tie of nationality is more honourable than that of a trading company. The only true peace for the world, the peace which is the twin of love and joy, the peace which is the gift of the Spirit, must consist in the recognition of all nations and races as parts of the one Kingdom of God realized on earth.

This war, therefore, challenges the Christian alike to thought, to penitence, to action. The present paper has only sketched the problems ; others will guide us towards their solution. And as we labour at our perplexities we shall often disagree, through seeing the truth so imperfectly.

But all Christians can unite, with little difference of opinion, in the policy which the hour requires. The task of the Christian Church is clear. It must strain every nerve to ensure that in the conduct of the war Christian standards of honour, generosity, and love for our enemies are not forgotten ; that the settlement, when it comes, should be in accordance with the Christian postulate that all nations are needed for the building up of the Kingdom of God ; and that our own country, whether in defeat or in the more searching test of victory, should open its heart and mind to learn the lessons which God can teach it, and should go forward into the future which He appoints knowing that its supreme mission is to discover and to do His will.