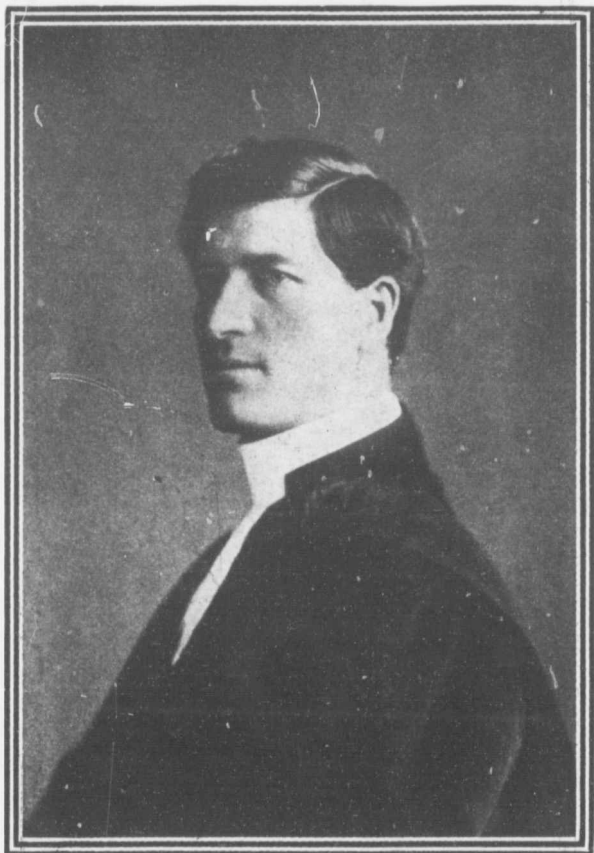


THE  
CHAPLAIN'S  
MESSAGE





MAJOR, THE REV. T. CRAWFORD BROWN, B.D.,  
CHAPLAIN 48TH HIGHLANDERS, TORONTO

RBS8603

## FAREWELL ADDRESS.

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**To the 48th Highlanders Regiment Before Leaving  
the Armories, Toronto, for Active Service, by  
the Chaplain, Major Rev. T. Crawford Brown.**

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"The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob  
is our refuge."

At the beginning of the Civil War in the United States one of his Generals approached President Lincoln with the question: "President, do you think God is on our side?" "I am not quite so anxious about that," said Lincoln. "I would much rather be sure that we are on God's side." My comrades, it is with this assurance that you are going forward to take part in the present great conflict. You are on God's side, since you are going to fight for a righteous cause. Great Britain is at war, not for territorial expansion, not for conquest, not for national power nor aggrandizement, not for hate nor revenge: the Empire is at war in defence of her national obligation and of the principle that weaker nations have rights which must not be violated by any stronger, capricious power. Our country is at war, not for sake of a mere scrap of paper, but in support of her plighted word, of her national signature which pledged her defence of the neu-

trality of Belgium, which has been ruthlessly violated by our enemy, who also pledged herself to the same obligation. You are going forward to do battle, not against a great people or nation, but a diabolical system that has fixed its yoke on the necks of its own people, and now aspires to enslave the whole of Europe, and in time the whole world—a system that has at last revealed itself and is recognized as the cause of the inhuman competition in Dreadnoughts and armaments, which has been sapping the life-blood of European peoples— a system that has been threatening the world's peace and prosperity for many years, and which must be destroyed, root and branch, before peace, freedom and progress can be even a reasonable or possible hope.

You are going forward in God's name to fight for that which is the very foundation of society. Without mutual trust and confidence there can be no security in our social, business and industrial life, no security in private, public, national nor international affairs. If individuals and nations are no longer to recognize their obligations, plighted word and signature, then the whole fabric of private, public and national security is destroyed, and we are left at the mercy of anarchy and the worst form in which machiavellianism has yet appeared. Notwithstanding this age of enlightenment, Germany has already violated international law, deliberately repudiated her national obligations, contemptuously refused to respect her own national pledges. To Germany a treaty bearing her national seal and signature is nothing more than a scrap of paper. Already she has resorted to the use of the most barbaric

methods of warfare. Her motto is : "The end justifies the means, however cruel and inhuman." That end is the justification of a system that holds that might is right and justice the interests of the stronger. That end is the justification of a selfish, ambitious, presumptuous fanatic, who claims that he rules by Divine Right, and that his duty is to make his dominion and power world-wide.

Observe that this is not a war of nation against nation, religion against religion, race against race ; is not a war of hate nor revenge—it is humanity in another death-and-life struggle to protect and preserve its hard-won freedom.

I have often been asked since the outbreak of the war where is Christianity, where is the love of God, that this thing should be permitted ? God has made man a free being, has given him the right to work out his whole destiny. The instinct for freedom is the deepest desire in human nature, is so precious to man that he values it even above life itself. We love freedom so much that we would not be satisfied to have even God himself interfere with it. How much less the machiavellian power that now threatens it God is present, inspiring the nations to bring to an end this human monster that has been so long a menace to the world's peace, has so long stood in the way of His kingdom, which is the kingdom of the brotherhood of man and the neighborhood of nations. God is present, inspiring you, my comrades, to cast yourselves into the balance, in the accomplishment of this great end.

I heartily congratulate you for your noble response to our country's call. It is your volun-

tary offering. What richer gift could you place on the altar of our Empire's cause? What greater love hath any man than that he lay down his life, if need be, in the defence of his King, his country and his home.

I congratulate the parents, the wives and sisters who are giving up their sons, husbands and brothers in obedience to this call to our Empire's defence. Large contributions may be made, but yours is the most precious offering, a much greater sacrifice.

I congratulate the whole people of Canada for their united response in so many ways, that those who are going to do battle for our country's honor and freedom may be cared for, and those who are their dependents may know nothing of want. It is evidence of the justice of our country's cause—evidence that there is but one mind and heart-beat regarding our duty.

My comrades, yours is a great privilege. You have already won the esteem and affection of every worthy citizen of Canada and the Empire. It is your opportunity to write deep your names in history, and to win your way to the hearts of all mankind, who value honor and freedom far above life itself. Already the sons of Canada have proven on other battlefields that they know how to live nobly, fight fairly and die fearlessly in defence of our King, our country, our homes. I know that you, too, when the time comes, will give a good account of yourselves, will prove yourselves not only valiant soldiers, but worthy examples of noblest manhood.

Remember that the courage that inspires you is not the courage of stupidity, fanaticism or sel-

fish presumption, but the courage of a purified and enlightened moral enthusiasm which has united all sections and classes of our Empire, regardless of language, race or creed, in one mighty effort and consecrated purpose. Yours is the courage that knows no fear, that recognizes no impossibilities, the courage that cannot be conquered, that will fall to rise again, that loves sympathy and companionship, but, if need be, can stand alone, fight alone and die alone, rather than yield to the duplicity and falsehood, the injustice and oppression of a presumptuous, fanatical autocrat, who has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him, broken his covenant with them; whose words were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; softer than oil yet were they drawn swords.

As you take your place in this great struggle for humanity's freedom and our country's honor, remember you are accompanied, not only by the good wishes of your compatriots, but also by the moral sympathy, prayers and benedictions of all the lovers of right, honor and freedom throughout the length and breadth of the great wide world.

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance unto you and give you peace." Amen.

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