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TIMELY SERMON ON "IS WAR EVER JUSTIFIABLE?"

Continued from page 3

ambition and inhuman method, would still be a nation, ready, under the same conscientious autocracy and the same demoniac purpose, to strike at the foundations of free governments the world over, thus blighting the prospects of a unification of all nations in the promised League of peace.

The Only True Peace

According to infallible promise the sword of offense must one day be sheathed through the triumph of a constructive policy of righteousness with God consulted and the Prince of Peace on this throne. No compromise of holy principle can ever help to usher in the glory of that day. No mediation of pope or potentate, however sincerely offered, can secure its salvation until full reparation is made for all wrongs inflicted and justice is amply satisfied. When the flagship of an enemy surrendered to Nelson and its commander offered him his hand, the resolute admiral refused it saying, "Your sword first, sir, then your hand." The Jehu of righteous crusade still gives answer to the Jerom of an unrighteous one—"What hast thou to do with peace?" When the chancellor of Germany sought to justify the course of outlawry, which turned the fields of fair Belgium into deserts of death, by saying "Necessity knows no law," he has forgotten that the Lawgiver is never dethroned by the edicts of men. As an oppressed woman said to Richlieu, arrogant in the pride of an assumed power, "God does not always pay by the week but he pays."

He has sounded forth the trumpet, That shall never call retreat.
He is sifting out the souls of men Before his judgment seat.

How God Can Overrule

As God in the past has brought order out of confusion and better civilizations out of barbarian practices, so now He can make harvests of blessing follow quickly upon the deep-going ploughshare of war. Faith springs exultant that never again shall greedy death stalk forth in company with a would-be Caesar. Shocked at the sight of the untold ravages and cruel inventions of modern warfare, mankind will not only abhor the specter of a murderous militarism but the deep-seated impulses that gave it birth.

Nations in the future may be expected to live, if not as partners, at least as upright competitors in the world's greatest marketplace. Great and small, they will have learned a lesson that excess of temporal power is a poor, tawdry thing unless it can be kept sanctified by moral motives. Russia set free at once from a corrupt court and the curse of intemperance will accept her new chance to put on her real strength. France even now is getting back to her forsaken altars of religion after her fiery baptism of trial. England, amid the sharp suffering of cross-bearing for the sake of others, is rejoicing in sense of a spiritual renaissance. High over the horror of the battlefield lifts a cross red with the heart-blood of a philanthropy which ministers in the thought of another cross to the need of all.

America's Awakened Conviction

A nation's larger salvation consists in the finding of her own soul and that a new sense of her destiny. In the vestibule of a western seminary there stands a statue in heroic size representing truth. In her right hand she holds an unsheathed sword with which she has smitten the mask of error from the face of untruth. And in the image of that I see my country at this hour, mighty in the consciousness of a new conviction and strong to arise to the summons of a new mission.

Shaken today out of half-stupid content with materialism and money-getting, there is everywhere apparent a recreation of national sentiment for the better safeguarding of national institutions and a large achievement of national ideals; a resurgence of sacrificial impulse to live more nobly; and, if need be, to gladly die for some higher sake, a reassertion of the national conscience with a crusade, a crusade for the "righteousness that exalteth a nation"; a restatement of the national creed and a restoration of the national colors to their rightful place, not only in the public square but in the church and the home.

Righteousness Victorious

Out of the hard disciplines of tyranny and cruelty God is able to bring a brighter world for the world is as rugged as a Calvary, but "it cleanses him who climbs it." Benjamin Franklin went into the Revolutionary war an agnostic and came out of it saying "Now I know that God reigneth." Julia Ward Howe came back from the watchtowers of the "boys in blue" and the "boys in gray" to sing out across the centuries "The truth is marching on." Mr. Britling in the recent unusual story "sees it through" but the genius of the writer makes it clear that, not Mr. Britling alone, but God, the omnipotent sees it through. The son of John Oxenham an Englishman of letters, wrote from the firing line to his father that he had seen something like a miracle—a cathedral in ruins, mausoleums leveled to the ground, monuments broken into fragments, but a cross in the very area of destruction standing untouched. As if inspired by the light of a new hope for a world still travailing in suffering, still shocked by the crash of war, John Oxenham wrote his notably fine poem, "The Imperishable Cross."

The churchyard stones all blasted into shreds.
The dead re-stain within their lowly beds.

THE CROSS STILL STANDS!

His holy ground all cratered and crassped.

All flailed to fragments by the fiery blast—

THE CROSS STILL STANDS!

His House a blackened ruin, scarce one stone left on another yet, untouched alone—

His holy ground all cratered and crassped.

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