

The Christian Life.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.  
Wars and rumors of wars, smoke, and riot and flame,  
But our God is high in the heavens, and the Prince of Peace is His Name.

Wars and rumors of wars; the nations like wolves at bay,  
Growling, and prowling, and snarling, till their battles are set in array.

The heathen swarm to the conflict; they storm with fire and sword,  
And hurl their grim defiance, bitter and brave at the Lord.

Alas, for the heathen peoples who know not what they do,  
Who must eat the bread of abasement, and drink of the cup they brew.

Wo for the homes uncounted where sorrow and squalor meet,  
Where the women wait and listen for unreturning feet.

God and Magog are loose; rapine is in their track;  
But the Lord who holds them in leash, can call their cohorts back.

His saints are safe in the terror, whatever the stress shall be,  
Our Lord for His own is mighty; they are safe on land and sea.

The great world navies hasten, the great world armies rise,  
But One is serene above them, the Lord of the earth and skies.

Out of the fury and tempest, out of the whirl and the rush,  
A still small voice shall issue; there shall follow a brooding hush.

And God shall bring His purpose to blossom and fruit in time;  
His purpose that marches onward to His hour of grace sublime.

Wars and rumors of wars, till the Master bid them cease,  
For our God is King in the Heavens, and His Name is the Prince of Peace.

I AM READY.

This topic is timely. The summer is past. Vacation is over. The pews are filled once more. The pulpit is occupied by the pastor. The prayer meetings feel the impulse of new plans and purposes. Everybody feels like doing something in the Master's work. It is the nick of time; the golden hour of the year. It is time to have the sails of the good ship Zion set, and everything ready for a good start.

"I am ready." This is the right ring for the servant and soldier of Jesus Christ. We are under "marching orders" from the King of all the time. We are servants of a householder who has commanded all His servants to watch. The posture of Israel on the last night of Egypt, with lions girded, and feet sandaled, and staff in hand, is the posture of Christ's servants in the world. "Ready" is the watchword that passes along the line. Happy is the servant who can say, "I am ready."

In what does this readiness consist? Readiness of purpose is surely meant. Much of precious time is wasted be-

cause of a want of purpose of our lives. Paul never lost sight of the main business of his life. When Christ met him on his way to Damascus, his first question was, "Who art Thou, Lord?" When that was answered and acknowledged by Paul, then came, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" Salvation and submission led directly to service in Paul's life. "This one thing I do," reduced his life plans to a single purpose. The Church is full of purposeless lives. "When the eye is single the whole body is full of light." The desire to serve the Lord never amounts to anything unless it becomes decision as to the service which the Lord offers. Every church has its avenues of usefulness that invite entrance. Some churches distribute cards at the opening communion of the season with a list of the church societies and work, with a request to the members to designate what department they will choose for service. The careful and prayerful filling of these cards is a notice to the pastor that they are ready to begin work. If your church has no card, run over the work of the church and declare your purpose and readiness to take up some definite work for the Lord.

Readiness of preparation comes next. The old Roman gladiator, upon entering the arena, prayed this prayer, "O Jove, if I have prepared myself aright, give me the victory." The soldier who enters the battle without his weapon, the mechanic who goes to work and leaves his tools at home, are full brothers to the Christian who enters Christ's service unprepared. The outfit of the Christian is simple and sufficient. "Prayer and provender hinder no man's journey." They are both absolutely indispensable to the Christian. Both God's will and God's throne are within reach. Paul antedated his visit to Rome by his prayers. He laid siege to the city before he entered its walls. He approached the world's centre by the way of God's throne. It may seem a long way around but it is the shortest way home to the hearts of men. Prepare for your work and prepare your work for you, by prayer to God. The Word of God is the Christian's base of supplies. "Furnishings for work" is what Paul calls the Scriptures.

"How many loaves have ye?" asked the Master of His perplexed disciples. If we consider our supplies we may easily be discouraged. There is never enough to go around unless the Master enlarges our supply. Are we ready to bring all our powers as well as all of our deficiencies, which are greater, to the Lord. Many a soul hesitates to offer his scanty supplies to the Lord. "If I only knew more I would gladly enter upon work." "If I was only better fitted I would willingly do this that you ask." The multitude starves while the disciples lament their scanty supply. We forget the Master and His mighty power to make our feebleness strength, and to supply our need. Every Christian that has received the gift of grace has an initial supply that will develop with use, or depart with neglect. Are we ready this year to bring our infirmities to Christ? He can do more with them than He can with our sufficiency, if we only knew it.

"I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also." Covet that work for yourself this year. Heart and tongue and life all attend upon that one privilege of the Christian. Preach the

Gospel. Preach it as a Herald, as a witness, as an example. Preach the Gospel, the good news, the great power, the glorious hope. Preach the Gospel anywhere and everywhere. "At Rome also," writes Paul. Where men have and where men have never heard. "The regions beyond" are never far away. Open up new territory and enter it in Christ's name. Mary Lyon told her pupils at Mt. Holyoke, in choosing their field, "Go where no one else is willing to go." The unworked fields when tilled may give the richest harvest.—*Christian Intelligencer.*

THE PRAYER MEETING AND THE CHURCH.

The prayer meeting and its relation to the church often cause our pastors and their supporters much anxious thought. How to have them as they ought to be, how to make them useful as they ought to become, how to maintain them so that they shall be full of interest and profit is no easy task for those who have them in charge.

Two dangers perhaps principally threaten this important adjunct to church work. One is sameness or routine. The meeting gets into a rut. The same methods are employed, the same people are quite likely to take part, and almost the same hymns are quite frequently sung. There is no enthusiasm, there is no real interest, and there is, therefore, no positive enjoyment or help. The other danger that threatens or impairs the usefulness of the prayer meeting is too much management. Everything about it is cut and dried. There is so much singing, so much standing, so much talking and so much praying, all compressed within the hour and all measured out in determined quantities. The leader in such a meeting is quite apt to feel that all must be absolutely under his control. He shortens, or prolongs, or prompts, as the case may be, from beginning to the end. He is restless if there is a pause, and impatient if one by a few minutes exceeds the time he feels ought to be occupied. The result in this case is a kind of strain running all through the meeting. It seems to the close observer as a sort of machine that is wound up and runs just so long in just such a way, and stops at the exact moment. This is apt to be mechanical rather than spiritual, and gives the impression of filling up the hour rather than aught else.

How now shall help be given in either of the directions indicated? It seems to this writer that it will be of profit as to both to remember what the prayer meeting is for. It is to stimulate the church's spiritual life. It is to furnish a helpful antidote to the world's bustle and hurly-burly. It is to present a quiet hour in which the noise of the day may die away in silence. It is to clear from the spiritual vision the dust may have settled down upon it. It is to be cumulative in personal experience and spiritual force, for the sending home of truth to the hearts of those hitherto barred against its entrance. Remembrance of these things will help to save from sameness on the one side and from machinery on the other. It will keep one from the stereotyped and common, and will at the same time be likely to keep him from the formal and that which is begotten from the mere sense of duty. For the production of the true helpful prayer meeting, tact and a spiritual tone are needed. A spiritual atmosphere must be created. Too much machinery must be avoided, and too little of the Spirit's power must be sought to be overcome. If pastor and

people will together wait at the Master's feet, looking to Him for guidance and trusting to the impulse of His Spirit, there will be likely to be avoidance of the fault indicated on the one side, and on the other there will be communion of saints that will do all hearts good.—*Baptist Commonwealth.*

When you are doubtful as to your course, submit your judgment absolutely to the Spirit of God, and ask Him to shut against you every door but the right one.

In the meanwhile, continue along the path which you have been already treading. It lies in front of you; pursue it. Abide in the calling in which you were called. Keep on as you are, unless you are clearly told to do something else. Expect to have as clear a door out as you had in; and if there is no indication to the contrary, consider the absence of indication as the indication of God's will that you are on His track.—*F. B. Meyer.*

Bronchitic Asthma a Heavy Burden.

Asthma is bad enough, but when bronchial symptoms are added, the poor sufferer has almost an intolerable existence. An absolute specific is found in fragrant healing Catarrhazone, which cures chronic cases that other remedies won't even relieve. "For years," writes Capt. MacDonald, of Montreal, "I battled with the agonies of bronchitic asthma. Often I couldn't sleep for nights at a time. I spent thousands on doctors and medicines without relief, but one dollar's worth of Catarrhazone cured me." Catarrhazone can't fail; it's guaranteed. Two months' treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c.

Love cannot remain silent. It is an active principle as well as a passion. It finds expression in life. It sympathizes, sacrifices, serves. It is benevolent, neighborly, pure, holy. Envy and hatred and vanity are foreign to its nature. It is hopeful and rejoiceth in the truth.—*J. C. Villiers.*

To Prevent is Better than to Repent.—A little medicine in the shape of the wonderful pellets which are known as Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, administered at the proper time and with the directions adhered to, often prevent a serious attack of sickness and save money which would go to the doctor. In all irregularities of the digestive organs they are an invaluable corrective and as cleansing the blood they clear the skin of imperfections.

"My Lord!" exclaimed one devout soul, "give me every day a little work to occupy my mind; a little suffering to sanctify my spirit; a little good to do to comfort my heart."

Biliousness Burdens Life.—The bilious man is never a companionable man because his ailment renders him morose and gloomy. The complaint is not so dangerous as it is disagreeable. Yet no one need suffer from it who can procure Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. By regulating the liver and obviating the effects of bile in the stomach they restore men to cheerfulness and full vigor of action.

The first backward step is almost imperceptible; it was those tiny flakes of snow, seeming to melt as they touch the earth, but falling one upon another, that have formed the immense mass which seems ready to fall and crush us.

There is no such thing as a harmless cough. The trouble goes from bad to worse unless checked. Allen's Lung Balsam cures the worst of colds. It allays inflammation and clears the air passages.