

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

THE REVOLUTION

The Christian Mission Magazine, January 1873

It was midnight. Crowds of citizen were hurrying through the streets of every one of our large cities. Powder lay scattered on every side, and the walls were everywhere marked by the balls which had struck them. Suddenly the bells of a thousands steeples broke the silence of the night with their merriest peals. The revolution was accomplished. It was very quickly done, I confess. The citizens armed themselves, not with barricades,, but with cloaks and mufflers; and the powder and the balls were very white and very harmless; but it was a very great revolution for all that, and one another long before now, "A Happy New Year to you."

And is there no revolution that we could accomplish for ourselves as quietly and as truly as this? I wonder how many people said to themselves on the last day of the old year, "I will turn over a new leaf."

It is necessary, however, in the first place, to remember that revolution is always a relative movement only. Turning over a new leaf only means beginning another blank page, and having one less blank page in reserve. I wonder how many such leaves have been spoiled in 1872! Alas! for the new leaves of 1873! How useless they will be, if there is no revolution than their turning over.

My friend, you are by nature a child of wrath, governed by the devil and your nature, which he has corrupted. Has there been a revolution in your soul? Is the kingdom of Satan overthrown there, and has God's kingdom come with its righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost? If not, O do not be any longer trifled with by the new constitutions – the good resolutions and amendments, which your oppressor delights in. Rise for freedom today, and go for it to Him who alone can give it to you!

And you, my Christian brother; have you not found that when you would do good, evil was present with you? Have you not found within you a body of lordly



50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

passions that were never 'content' with any good action you attempted: that often frustrated, and, more frequently still, spoiled your best endeavors? You have tried to overcome them with the new life principles. You have again and again coerced them by the agitation of 'good times,' special efforts, and precious influences; but you find it a very uncertain and unsatisfactory way of conducting affairs.

Oh, why not say, "There shall be a revolution today. I will call on the Lord of lords, who has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and He shall subdue all things under my feet, for He is God my Savior."

Is the monarchy of the Holy One established in your soul? Have you no will but His will? Does His love possess you entirely? If so, be thankful that you have passed the revolutionary stage of your existence, and devote all your energies to the glorious cause of the revolution in the world.

Let us begin with a bold avowal of our flag, for we are not the children of darkness, but of light. We have not sympathy with "the part of order," not with any section of it. Those who do not feel the urgent need of radical changes in themselves and in mankind, or those who cannot reconcile themselves to the desperate measures required by so desperate a case, have nothing in common with us. The world is lost, and Jesus has come to save it; and it must be saved, at any cost, and whatever that may require, because whoever is not saved will be damned forever.

We are not reformers. Gladly as we would chase from the world every outward manifestation of sin, and repair all the ravages of the destroyer around us, we have little time and less power for such labors. We leave them for the most part to others, while we note the remark of our great leader, "Make the tree good, and its fruit good."

Still less are we politicians. The repression of vice, and the amelioration of the condition of the masses, which we have so little time for personally, we cannot hope to see accomplished by the agency of men who, generally speaking, profess to "seek their own." Anxious to accomplish properly our duties as citizens of a country so highly favored as to its dynasty, constitution, and government,



50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

we find our time all too short to execute the great law of Christ, whose officers we are.

We are revolutionists. We know that we have passed from death unto life, and we insist on the necessity of the same sweeping change in every human being. With the cries of, "Death unto sin," and "Life unto righteousness," we go on, determined to turn the world upside down. We are not the philosophers or the theorists of revolution; but its agents. Merely to recommend revolution is contemptible. We must make it. Glad indeed would we be if any word of ours could go forth to slumbering Christians and slumbering churches, and awake them to the fight; but it is only what is done by direct personal effort that can be called sure work, in a revolution. We should be astonished if we knew how many we are in all lands and in all churches; but our work need be none the less complete because it is done by individuals to a great extent ignorant of one another, and outwardly separated.

How can we improve upon the past? Firstly, by not merely accepting, but eagerly watching for, any hint that can be gathered from any source; and, secondly, by adopting, or relinquishing, any method in accordance with the demands of the one great object.

As to ourselves, let us remember that we fight under a Captain who knows us, and who has planned the whole movement. We have each a peculiar destiny. Let us never rest till we are sure that we are being used in the way our great leader desires to use us.

As to organization. Perfect love will cast out all fear of one another. In order to unity, we must gladly be in subjection to one another. The work will be best done in each locality where one, the best qualified, is left to lead, and where everyone else follows with alacrity (=brisk and cheerful readiness). All the great questions are settled beforehand. It is for "the Men of Order" to discuss. We know what we have in hand. Let us do it, and we shall save much consultation-time by having one leader, who can listen to every one's proposals. Wherever there is fighting to be done, God finds officers. Let us be eager to follow them without debate.

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

We can do a deal more for one another. Let us unite, two by two, to watch over one another in love. Let us not rest in common experience, but seek to build one another up on our most holy faith, striving to lead one another into all the knowledge of God and of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We of the "Christian Mission" can do much for each other temporally. Let us study the system of mutual help practiced by Christians, as laid down in the Acts of the Apostles/ They were not worse off than most of us. Let us try if we cannot find out how to unite, not merely to lessen our expenditure, but to increase our gains and earnings. Let us see if we cannot develop a perfect cooperation without an Act of Parliament, or a Government loan.

Our meetings must be daily. Where we lack a place of daily meeting indoors, let us daily gather under the sky, and God will soon find us a homestead. Search the Scriptures, and see if you can find an instance of God's people, thoroughly devoted to his service, not meeting daily.

We may have had to hold meetings at late hours to suit the class of people we wanted to gather; but, in these times of shortened hours of labor, it is our duty to show an example of early worship. God sends early as well as late to us. It is our duty to be waiting upon Him, together, at both ends of the day. We must not be satisfied with public efforts only, to get people within the sound of the gospel. There should be one or two of us outside every place of worship, denying themselves the privilege of being within it for once, giving a quiet invitation to the passersby, one by one, to come in. Most will answer, "No," and many will laugh; but nearly all will converse together about the invitation, and dozens will turn back after a short time and go in.

In all your dealings with souls, let us know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and him crucified. The art of gospel-decoration has attained a perfection worthy of our century; but it is ours to put away from the sight of poor lost sinners everything but Jesus, and life and death, and heaven and hell.

In 1872, Satan put forward some of his ablest spokesmen to scoff at the power of prayer. Let us be avenged in 1873. Those promises of Jesus to twos and threes, have some special object. Let us try to realize it. Let us band ourselves together in twos, and companies, in societies, to pray for selected individuals, or



50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

strongholds of Satan. Oh, yes, we will test the power of prayer for specific objects! We will let all who are really willing to see whether we pray to a living God or not!

Let us boast in nothing save the cross; but let us boast right boldly in that, and who shall make our boasting vain. The bolder the stand we make, the better, provided we never fall back.

But, remember, "risings," slight, un-sustained, spasmodic efforts against anyone, and especially against the Evil One, are ruinous. They rivet the chains of the oppressed, and cause a weakness which prepares the way for the most crucial reaction. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve," and serve Him, and Him alone, and Him forever.