

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

KINGS

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They have been discussing, with the greatest gravity, in the House of Commons, what they shall call our Queen; and if they determine to style her "Empress," whether she shall bear that title in England, or in India only!

It is not always the most agreeable thing in the world to be an earthly monarch and to be discussed by everybody. Thank God! We, who have obtained the glorious rights and heritage of sons of God through faith in Jesus, are raised far above any such discussion, even by the most powerful and dignified of earthly assemblies.

Perhaps the angels will be talking about our titles some day, for "we know not what we shall be;" but our royal rank and power are for ever assured in our glorious charter—"We shall be like Him," the "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

WE ARE KINGS FOR EVER.

It is astonishing to see how easily the greatest human honors and positions can slip away from those who for a time seem secure beyond all fear. What a crowd of personages there are who, within the memory of us all, have had to descend from thrones and become mere citizens! There are enough of these ex-kings, ex-rajahs, ex-princes, ex-presidents, and ex-premiers, living to people an east-end court, and if they all lived in one, they could not be less noticed than they are nowadays.

But the God who alone rules with ever-increasing power has made us His kings for ever; and when all the rest of the earthly potentates have ceased to reign, we shall be sitting upon thrones and wearing crowns that will never pass from us.

Even when they call me kings in these times, some other authority, some cabinet, or parliament, or other council, does nearly all, if not quite all, the



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governing for them. And the restless tide of popular influence seems every year to make kingship in every land more and more of a name, and less and less of a reality.

But for us God has set forth a plan of constantly increasing activity and power. Placing before us His only Son as our model, He boldly urges us to rise to the grand height of brotherly equality with Him, while He, the Captain of our salvation, holds out to us a loving hand, and promises to lift us up if we will let Him, so that we may sit down with Him on His throne even as He has sat down on His Father's throne.

What a calling! To conquer every foe of God and righteousness! To have mastery in all our conflicts for God! To tread down Satan under our feet! To have it all our own way, provided our way is God's way! To triumph over evil instead of being overcome by it! To turn the world upside down with irresistible power, and never to be shaken even in our own throne, but to sit calm and quiet amidst the up-heaving of everything and the downfall of all our foes! To enjoy the splendors of heaven itself even amidst the poverty and affliction of our earthly pilgrimage! To pull down the very strong-holds of hell, piercing their defenders to the heart, while they laugh at and persecute us in their helpless spite! To advance through one splendid progress of glory and victory, while angel lords-in-waiting attend us, and shining hosts cheer every fresh achievement, until at length we stand far above all height by God's own side, blazing like the very stars in His own light and glory! That is the life God has planned us.

LET US LIVE LIKE KINGS.

Let us live like the King of kings Himself. Nothing less than this can be consistent with our dignity, possessions, and our prospects.

But, oh! how unworthy of their high calling do God's kings generally behave!

Here's a king all in a splutter, because somebody has said something unkind to him! Poor fellow! He is promised public coronation before the whole world one of these days; but he really cannot endure a few hard words from some little mortal! Does he really believe God has made him king?



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Here's another distressed beyond measure because he has just lost ten pounds! He is "coming into" nobody can tell how much a year for ever and ever. Everything God has belongs to him in fact; but oh dear, that ten pounds! What a dreadful loss, to be sure! He can't enjoy himself for a week after that! Can he really believe he is a king?

But just look at this one! He seems the gloomiest of all. Darkness seems to cover him altogether, and he can hardly hold his head up at all. What ever can be the matter? Well, nothing is exactly the matter just now; but he is full of trouble because he thinks something is going to happen. Did you ever? He is going to dwell with God in the deathless land of triumph, but he "cannot bear the thought" of some little storm that may burst upon him for a few days here! Does he know that he is a king of heaven?

There goes a regular crowd of kings; what a hurry they are in, to be sure! Some tremendous battle with hell is surely coming off soon. They "really have not time" to talk to you about that at all. They would prefer to see you on Sunday upon such subjects. Oh, yes, they *are* busy. That king has to make a lot of bricks, and the next one is going to lay some, and that other is off to nail some pieces of wood together, and this queen sews pieces of cloth in different shapes all day, and all those better dressed ones spend their time in handing people little parcels and taking little bits of metal from them in return. They spend as many hours as ever they can in this way, because they want to "get on in the world."

Do they really believe that they are kings?—that they are soon going to leave this world, with all its little affairs, and to have the morning star given them, and to walk on golden streets for ever and ever?

Alas! what degradation! They talk of the dishonor to the crown when a royal personage commits some act of indiscretion; but here are whole lives utterly beneath the holy dignity conferred by God Himself. Oh, shame upon our unbelief, our cowardice, and our worldliness! Such conduct disgraces God and man alike beyond all description.

"Ah, yes," sighs another king, "how dreadfully low the spiritual life of God's people is, and how little progress the cause of Christ, thus degraded and hindered, seems to make in the world! True, royal brother, there is much to



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dishearten God and us, who seek His glory. But let us at least be kings to Him. Let us not fear nor faint. We are called to the kingdom for such a time as this. There is disorder, and darkness, and sin, and woe, and rebellion, and ruin on every side.

But we are called to reign, and reign we will for all that. The Lord of Hosts proclaims that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, and trusting in His power, we can put things to rights to any extent. Down with every inconsistency—down with every iniquity—down with every opposition to God and righteousness. Reign we must, and reign we will, till everything is subdued to our blessed Jesus.

Remember the mighty change that has taken place in our own condition. We, who used to be the sport of every current of worldliness and sin, and whose hearts groaned beneath the cruel yoke of the devil; we who dare not so much as lift our heads against iniquity, either fashionable or vile, are not merely set free from bondage, but are proclaiming liberty and resisting the wicked one and all his servants daily. God has made us slaves, in fact, the partners of His throne already. What then have we to fear? The same power which has already established this kingdom of righteousness and peace, and joy in our hearts is with us to accomplish more wondrous marvels still. It is our Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. Enough!