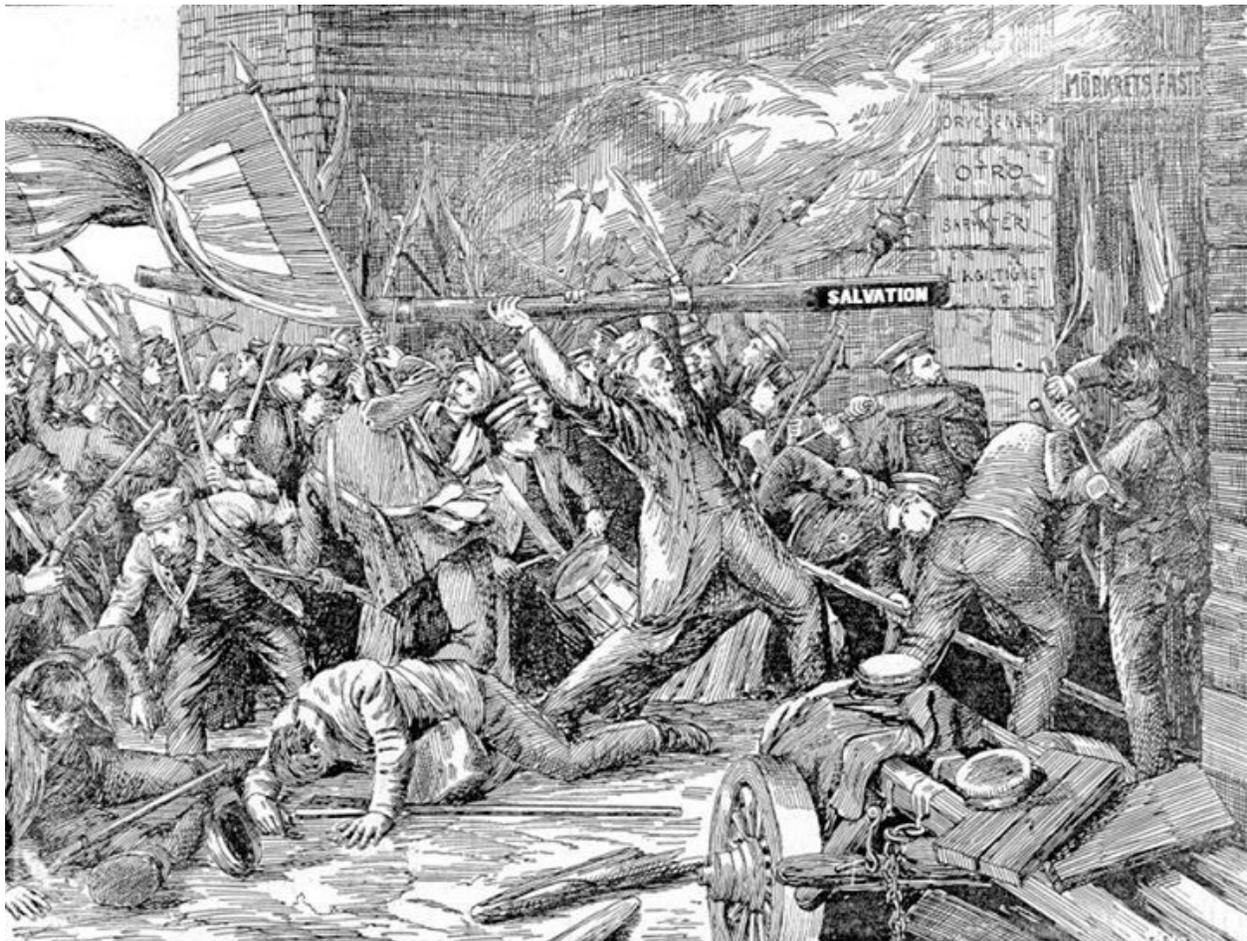


50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

ABOUT HOLY WAR

The Christian Mission Magazine, September, 1873



From the Swedish War Cry

“Fight the good fight of faith.” - 1 Timothy 6:12

“He will subdue the nations under us, and the nations under our feet.” - Psalm 47:3



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“Every battle of the warrior is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.” - Isaiah 9:5

If we are to believe the professions of newspapers and “public men,” **war is gone out of date**, and is come to be regarded by the nations as a great crime and a still greater folly. True, enormous armies and fleets of ironclads are kept up by every civilized people, and preparations abound everywhere. No money is spared in making these preparations as extensive and as perfect in every detail as the latest developments of art and science will admit; and yet statesmen are unanimous in denouncing war, and in declaring their determination to maintain peace.

Monstrous as all this seems, there is surely a far more awfully hollow system of things in connection with the Christian Church plainly visible to all who will open their eyes to it. Men in every communion are impressed with the necessities of our times, and schemes of beneficence, plans to meet every spiritual and temporal destitution, are constantly being set on foot. The ostensible object of all these is **the destruction of evil, the chasing of darkness, and the rescue of fallen humanity from the jaws of hell. And yet, amidst all this display of benevolent energy, where is the war? Where is the terrible energy displayed in the attack upon sin? Where is there a hard, unbending advance to exterminate wrong? Where is there the daring rush of brave men and women to save their fellows? Where are the people who have been wounded in the fight? Where have the people of iniquity fallen back before the forces of the children of light! Where are the prisoners captured from the fortress? Is not the Christianity of today a sentimental attempt to please all people and to give no offense to any?** It gets any quantity of complimentary bows, but makes few bow to Christ. It cries, “Peace! Peace!” when there is no peace.

Anyway, the Christian Mission is war – war to the knife. Daily our people have to carry the word of God to those who hate the very mention of religion. Daily they have to live the life of God amongst the devotees of vice. For us to compromise and trimming are out of the question. **We live amongst the children of men, whose tongues are set on fire, who are determined to fight for the devil, and we must fight or die.**



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AND HAVE WE NOT JUST CAUSE OF WAR?

Think of the past, on which many of us can look back: a childhood of darkness, surrounded and blighted by vicious influences; years of ignorance and sin and misery beyond all description; years of delusion, when all that could bring us peace and happiness was represented as abominable, and all that could lead to ruin and hell was represented as desirable and pleasant. **Now that the horrid spell is gone, and the fell yoke broken from our neck, what are we to do but declare and wage eternal war against our old oppressor?** And when we see our fellow workmen and the very members of our families led blindfold through a path of pain to a certain destruction, can we do anything but rush to the rescue? While we see evil triumphing on all sides; while the gin-palaces and concert halls and gambling haunts are filled with victims, and iniquity of every kind is by general acceptance established as the inevitable course for everyone, can we do less than rise in mass for the overthrow of organized damnation?

As we stand face to face with the worst of sinners; as we look into their eyes and read the traces of hidden nobility still lurking there; as we think of the lovely characters and glorious lives that yet may be produced by an Almighty Redeemer, can we do less than follow our great Captain in the path of toil and hardship and shame and blood?

Stand where you please in this East of London, and look at the wretched thousands as they crowd past you. Why are those men toiling on all through the weary day for a care living? Why are those women's faces so pale and thin, and why are their emaciated bodies so poorly clad? Why are those ragged, dirty children still running about the streets? Has not sin done it all? Could anyone take these things to heart and not go to war against the author of it all? Talk about sensation! **If anyone could realize just what Satan is doing to one of his victims, it would produce such a sensation as we should never forget.** And yet they say we are *extravagant*, and carry things to extremes, when, with some earnestness, we denounce sin and urge the claims of the world's Savior upon all!

Had some earthly monarch only *declared* war upon our country, would anyone reproach the nation with being *extravagant* because the feeling of the people



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was strongly expressed? **Yet here is Satan not declaring merely, but waging war upon us and all our race; and there are people who talk about controlling our feelings and avoiding extremes!** Would God we had anything like suitable feelings to control! **We have a God who has freely given up His only Son to death to satisfy His feelings on this subject. We have a Savior who gave up heaven itself in the intensity of His feeling for a lost world. If we have His Holy Spirit in us, we shall**

LET OUR FEELINGS LOOSE.

Our time is short; it is flying, and as it flies men and women are dropping into hell. This is no time to talk about moderation and caution. On, on, if by any means we can save some! What is it to us if the Christian world stands by coldly wishing us success, and regretting our excesses. The people are living in sin, and going down quick into hell, when they might be saved. Oh! to feel more about it! It is a fact: let us face it. Shall we see our Savior's blood trampled under foot, His tears and agonies and entreaties unheeded? Shall we see the story of His dying love treated with a respectful contempt by the world, and not feel and let everyone know that we feel?

But it is not mere ebullitions of feeling that will be produced by a proper sense of eternal realities. **If we feel how vile and how gigantic an assault is being made upon all that is true and good; if we feel how grand and glorious a conflict it is to which God is calling us, and let our feelings loose, WE SHALL EMPLOY ALL OUR POWER IN THIS HOLY WARFARE.**

There is a place for everyone, and all must unite in the effort to drive back the foe. There are handfuls of people in every company who are sure always to get to the front; but the front people must not be the only people who fight. Every man, woman, and child who can stand in the open air ought to be there as often as possible to support those who bear the brunt of the outdoor work.

Nor must the exertion of full power by the whole satisfy the individual. **War is only carried on with the greatest success when each soldier uses their own intelligence and powers to attain the common end. Let each one of us choose their person. Let us each think and contrive how to advance our holy cause.** Is there no stranger we can get to some service? Is there no careless worshipper



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we can surround with a ring of prayer and subdue for Christ? **We must each do our very utmost. Nothing less will suffice.** Before the principalities and powers of darkness with which we have to wrestle we are weakness itself. Our hearts might well die within us, and our hands hang down in hopeless impotence, were it not that the mighty God of Jacob is beside us, saying, "Fear not, for I am with you;" but, supported by His breath, we will, with a divine energy, tread down His enemies.

In this warfare there must be more or less confusion. They call us disturbers of the peace, and say we turn things upside down. Would to God we could turn the world upside down!

The Christian world almost universally says, "Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise!" but if only a hundred do it in right good earnest, the cry is at once, "Oh, how noisy they are!" Never mind.

"Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne,
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues."

They will keep in countenance in heaven, if no one will on earth. Oh, but the disorder! Let anyone stand at one of our street corners, and see the people darting across the street in every direction, threading their way between the passing vehicles? Is there no disorder? Is there no confusion? Had there not better be a law passed that paths be marked out at each street crossing, over one of which each person must walk? Absurd! Why? Because everyone knows his business and looks out for his best course; and by that means there is far less confusion than there would be with any possible regulations. Certainly, people do sometimes get in one another's way, and some are run over; but the general convenience cannot be sacrificed for those few exceptions. Exactly; and if, in a meeting, or out of a meeting, each one is intent upon the Father's business, **the liberty of each to do what he can for God cannot be sacrificed for fear of the very rare breaches of decorum which may result from the peculiarities of one or two persons.**

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PEOPLE WHO WILL FIGHT MUST RUN RISKS.

We are very favorably placed in this respect, inasmuch as we have to run no ultimate risk. We know the end, - glory and immortality, - eternal life.

But right hands and eyes are sure to have to go. "Off in sorrow, off in woe," **we must cast aside with desperate coolness any regard for self. If anyone has not suffered much, it is certainly because he has not fought much. Only let us be in earnest; we will lose many a friend and find many a cross. But we are not going to run a risk for nothing. We know what we fight for, and we will have it.** Did you ever hear of a General reporting that he had fought so many battles and marched so many miles, and he hoped good would result from it? Surely one would say to such a foolish fellow, "Surely you know whether you have gained any ground or taken any prisoners." **WE MUST HAVE SOULS SAVED. We must have new neighborhoods explored and awakened, and we know it will be so. The shout of a King is in our camp; the Lord of Hosts leads us on. We are conquering through the blood of the Lamb. If the foe does not recede, he does not drive us back. We are pouring an ever-increasing fire into his ranks. Day by day they fall before us. Hallelujah! Our King sits expecting till His enemies become His footstool. Jesus expects us to win, and Jesus must know. Then let us still press forward, the glorious prize to gain, and we will have the victory.**