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**IS OUR'S A CHRISTIAN**

Question Discussed at Length By B. A. Snider.

There is a growing sentiment in favor of peace, and against war and the preparations for war. Not altogether on account of the loss of life, and the destruction of property in actual warfare, but more on account of the great expense of maintaining an army and navy in time of peace.

If war and the preparations for war are to be abolished—and I believe that they should be, the first thing to do is to find the cause, if possible, and then apply the remedy, if there is one, thereby eliminating war with its attendant cruelties, tragedies and horrors: And if you will accept the Bible as a competent and trustworthy witness, I shall appeal to it as the basis of my remarks. It says that the love of money is the root of all evil. Then the love of money must be the evil root from which war springs. Money is not an evil in itself, but the possession of vast sums does give power over our fellowmen, and that large sums be amassed necessitates wage slavery, and the extension of private property in the resources and means of life which finally leads to war.

General Sherman said "war is hell," therefore in abolishing war we would to that extent be abolishing hell on earth.

I do not object to the acquisition of wealth or the means by which it is gained, providing it is in a just and equitable manner, and does not rob the producers to whom all wealth rightfully belongs. But the greed and ambition to acquire territorial or other wealth for the sake and love of money, or that an individual may gain prestige and power does lead to war.

Otherwise, the Bible is mistaken, and the love of money is not the root of all evils, and war is only a blessing in disguise.

The primary incentive of the individual is to obtain the means whereby life may be sustained by applying his labor power to the resources of nature, thereby producing shelter, food and raiment, and without these life and its pleasures are impossible. Wherefore Jesus said "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

The Kingdom of Heaven is said to be "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." Righteousness is said to be justice, and God love. Therefore, seek justice, not injustice, peace, not war, joy, not sorrow, in the spirit of love, and not in the spirit of hate. Christ's disciples came to him, and said "Master, teach us to pray even as John also taught his disciples," and he said, "When ye pray, say Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as in heaven."

Does any one believe that there is contention, strife, war and destruction going on in heaven?

Does any one believe that it is the will of God that there should be war on earth? Does any one believe that Christ was so inconsistent as to tell his disciples to pray for that which is impossible. Certainly not.

The church has prayed for almost two thousand years, and has failed to produce satisfactory results. Why? Because its acts were not in accord with its prayers. By its acts it shows that it does not believe Christ's word. Therefore "Justice hath fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."

"If thou kill thou art become a transgressor of the law." "Sin is the transgression of the law." "The wages of sin is death." Thus saith the Bible, the standard authority on the Christian religion, and rule of faith and practice.

It is said that "this is a Christian nation." If so, is it necessary for this nation to have an army and navy to protect itself from the subjects or citizens of other Christian nations that it may maintain the right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness that other Christian nations might deprive it of? not as Christians, but as citizens of a nation that profess to be Christian, and that acknowledges the same standard of authority, the New Testament.

Do we need an army and navy to carry on the business of destruction desolation and in heaven or other lands, to compel people to accept our theories and principles? I think not.

Do Christians engage in and carry on a system of destruction, robbery and murder by proxy? A business sanctioned, controlled and regulated by law, made and enacted expressly for this purpose?

For the manual of arms, or the science of war is a special trade or profession: Therefore, there must be special laws made for this purpose.

Whatever war may be called, it seems to be a business of this nation, as this nation by its acts sanctions it and requires by law the raising of money for the purpose of manufacturing, or buying weapons of destruction, and other munitions of war, and also for the training of men in the science or strategy, or art of execution that they may the easier murder, mutilate and distress their fellowmen.

The Bible declares the Lord, God to be the Christian's refuge and rock of defence. There is not God able to protect them in the performance of those duties required of them, and as practiced by Jesus himself? By their acts they say no. Therefore they must have an army of trained men to do their bloody work for them; committing crimes by proxy, while they are performing those duties which Christ their great teacher taught and practiced, whose rules of action they pretend to follow, and whose commands they profess to obey.

Christians of this nation have, what they are pleased to call the "word of reconciliation" committed to their care in common with the Christians of all other nations, as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity. Are armies and navies necessary to a work of reconciliation? Is the prod of the bayonet needed to bring people to a realization of their duties and obligations to their fellow men?

Are the instruments of murder, torture and destruction the panoply of the followers of Jesus wherewith they quench the fiery darts of Satan, and make peace with those that disagree with them? Is the army our shield of salvation and the navy our rock of defence? Does having our feet shod with the "preparation of the gospel of peace," mean, "in time of peace, prepare for war?" Was cruel relentless, reciprocal murder for private profit, public revenue or territorial aggrandizement the doctrine of the Prince of Peace?

Did Jesus advocate the conquest of the world by the force of arms or the power of love? Did he enact laws regulating the profession of murder, called the science of war, for a Christian nation or for a church or for any one else? If not, why should not war be abolished? Or does a Christian nation have a special suit to put on as citizens, and another to go to church in, and for Sunday use?

If it is wrong to commit murder, under what circumstances must we be placed to make it right. Will the New Testament justify the shedding of human blood for any cause? If not, is it not true, that this so called "Christian nation" is as a whited sepulcher, full of corruption. A nation of hypocrits that serve God with their lips, and mammon in their practice? Wandering stars of the god of ambition, greed and selfishness, puffed up with pride; glorying in their greatness like Babylon of old, destroying men's bodies in war while professing to save their souls that they may wear a crown of glory in the sweet bye and bye.

As a nation, we cause hatred instead of love; cursing in place of blessing; terror in place of safety; war in the place of peace; death in place of life; sorrow in place of joy; misery in the place of happiness; weeping instead of laughter; and still unsatisfied—like malevolent fiends, invade what should be the sacred precincts of the toiler's homes and there debase the family life; and for profits rob childhood of its mirth and innocence and suppress the music of its laughter. And then with a proud smile of superior intelligence and righteousness say, "We are a Christian nation." Therefore war is a blessing in disguise and is in

accord with the angelic message of "Peace on earth, and to men good will." B. A. Snider.

**Merry Moments**

As We Journey Through Life Let Us Laugh by the Way

**Getting Even.**

A couple of fellows met at the club the other night, and one of them seemed to be feeling a bit put out, don't you know.

"What's the matter, old top?" asked a fellow member.

"I deucedly hate to say it, but Gadsukes has insulted me vilely."

"Rotten bad form in him, I should say. Well, are you going to get even with him?"

"Yes, by Jove!"

"In a perfectly gentlemanly way, I presume?"

"Oh, yes. I have given my chauffeur orders to be rude to his chauffeur the next time they meet."—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

**Pa Just Looked On.**



"Did your father ever spank you when you were a boy?"

"Certainly not."

"Was he opposed to corporal punishment on principle or were you so good that you didn't need spanking?"

"Neither. Mother was the man of the house."—Chicago Record-Herald.

**And It's Some Job!**

The color scheme of many a woman consists of keeping her age dark and her hair light.—Philadelphia Record.

**A Curious Memorial.**

Projecting from the wall of a house overhanging the Lake of Thun, in Switzerland, may be seen the bow of a small rowing boat with the name Petronella painted upon it. The wife of the owner of the house was drowned from this boat while rowing on the lake. Her husband determined, as a memorial to his wife, to build the boat into his house. The room destined to contain it, however, proved too short for the whole length of the boat, and the bow projects from the wall, just beneath the balcony. The house is close by one of the steamboat piers, and the unaccountable appearance of this strange memorial excites much curiosity among the passengers on the steamers.—Strand Magazine.

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