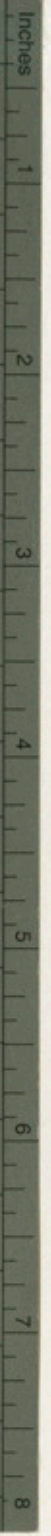


ARTICLE.

Published in the Easter Number
of the New York Herald April 1906.

No.27, Volume 9.

Subject:
The Christian Militant.



The Christian Militant.
Subject:

No. 27, Volume 2.

of the New York Herald April 1906.
Published in the Easter Number
ARTICLE

THE CHRISTIAN MILITANT.

by

General O. O. Howard. U.S.A. (ret.)

Easter Sunday is the festival of the resurrection of Christ and I am glad to attempt to prepare an article upon the "Church Militant" which has made this festival a great joy to the people. There are two distinct divisions of this subject. The one looks mainly to what the armies of the world have done in paving the way for human progress and Christian civilization; and the other assembles all the believers in Christ into organizations which have the semblance of an army.

Webster's definition is "The Church Militant, the Christian Church on earth which is supposed to be engaged in a constant warfare against its enemies and is thus distinguished from the church triumphant in heaven". Still in common use there are two senses to the expression, "The Church Militant". One is the part the armies of mankind have played in preparing the way, in consolidating, and in extending the Christian Church; and the other is the part that all Christian believers have had in making converts to what is called the Christian faith, and more still in preserving an active belief in Christ from generation to generation in the families and in the organized churches. In this second division all the churches are regarded like separate regiments, brigades and divisions of armies, and at the head of the whole body is Christ the Lord. Writers in all ages have used the army as a simile to illustrate the work which the Saviour laid out for his apostles and disciples.

The Apostle Paul (Ephesians VI. Chapter) urges upon his friends the spiritual warfare in remarkable language. He says: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole ar-

THE CHRISTIAN MILITANT.

by

General O. O. Howard, U.S.A. (ret.)

Easter Sunday is the festival of the resurrection of Christ and

I am glad to attempt to prepare an article upon the "Church Militant"

which has made this festival a great joy to the people. There are two distinct divisions of this subject. The one looks mainly to what the armies of the world have done in paving the way for human progress and Christian civilization; and the other assembles all the believers in Christ into organizations which have the semblance of an army.

Webster's definition is "The Church Militant, the Christian Church on earth which is supposed to be engaged in a constant warfare against its enemies and is thus distinguished from the church triumphant in heaven".

Still in common use there are two senses to the expression, "The Church Militant". One is the part the armies of mankind have played in preparing the way, in consolidating, and in extending the Christian Church; and the other is the part that all Christian believers have had in making converts to what is called the Christian faith, and more still in preserving an active belief in Christ from generation to generation in the families and in the organized churches. In this second division all the churches are regarded like separate regiments, brigades and divisions of armies, and at the head of the whole body is Christ the Lord. Writers in all ages have used the army as a simile to illustrate the work which the Saviour laid

out for his apostles and disciples.

The Apostle Paul (Ephesians VI. Chapter) urges upon his friends the spiritual warfare in remarkable language. He says; "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole ar-

mour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

The Jewish Synagogue furnishes the model for the individual Christian Church. Every time I have visited a Synagogue during its services I have been struck with the similarity between its form of worship and that of our own congregational churches. The instant that a body of Jewish believers recognize the Saviour as their prophet, priest and king, in a spiritual sense, there appears to me to be but a shadow of difference between them and us and I am fond of going into the Synagogues where the Scriptures are read every week; but all benevolent associations distinctive-ly organized and conducted for the benefit of their fellowmen ^{constitute} ~~into~~ the great army which God is using for ^{blessing} ~~placing~~ mankind. The ordinary work of preparation, however, to which ^{we above} ~~we~~ refer^x, was carried on ^{largely} ~~by~~ by the children of Israel. They ^{themselves} ~~too~~ conquered with arms those people who ^{were wedded} ~~had~~ ~~to~~ idolatry and had yielded to vice of every description. They ^{also} ~~too~~ cleared the way in Palestine for a better civilization; yet they were most stringent in teaching a clear knowledge of Jehovah and obedience to his commandments. Whenever they obeyed the Lord, following him with all their hearts, they were successful in their warfare. Whenever they disobeyed him, whatever form their government took, Jehovah disowned them and scattered them and punished them in various ways. The prophets all laid more stress upon the

ment of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having
done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with
truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod
with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield
of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the
wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication
in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplica-
tion for all saints."

The Jewish Synagogue furnishes the model for the individual
Christian Church. Every time I have visited a Synagogue during its ser-
vices I have been struck with the similarity between its form of worship
and that of our own congregational churches. The instant that a body of
Jewish believers recognize the Saviour as their prophet, priest and king,
in a spiritual sense, there appears to me to be but a shadow of difference
between them and us and I am fond of going into the Synagogues where the
Scriptures are read every week, but all benevolent associations distinctive-
ly organized and conducted for the benefit of their fellowmen into the great
army which God is raising for saving mankind. The ordinary work of prepara-
tion, however, to which ~~reference~~ ^{reference} was carried on ^{largely} by the
children of Israel. They too conquered with arms those people who ~~had~~ ^{were} cleared
to idolatry and had yielded to vice of every description. They too cleared
the way in Palestine for a better civilization; yet they were most stringent
in teaching a clear knowledge of Jehovah and obedience to his commandments.
Whenever they obeyed the Lord, following him with all their hearts, they
were successful in their warfare. Whenever they disobeyed him whatever
form their government took, Jehovah disowned them and scattered them and
punished them in various ways. The prophets all laid more stress upon the

keeping of the statutes of God than upon the results of fighting or success of armies. We can see ^{now very clearly} in the light of history how our armies have ~~played~~ ^{fixed} the way and have had a great part in conserving our present civilization; as in our Revolutionary War which established American independence; as in the war of 1812 which overthrew a particular form of tyranny; as in the war with Mexico which resulted in getting us our domain from ocean to ocean; as in the Civil War through which we have passed, in giving us a nation free from slavery and a constitution which established our state rights with proper state limitations upon a firmer foundation; and as in the war with Spain which has removed a fearful nuisance at our doors, giving Cuba independence and prosperity, and brought Porto Rico and the Philippines under the American flag. ^{Surely} ~~this~~ [^] this was not done with a view to the extension of the Christian religion. ^{none of our} ~~Probably~~ [^] people had these results distinctively in mind, yet these are ^{some of the beneficent fruits} ~~the results~~ [^] of the great contests.

I was once passing through an immense forest on the Pacific Coast and there came on a terrific storm. In the midst of the storm the trees were bending and breaking. It was near night and I had but one man, and he was a soldier, with me. Large trees fell across our pathway. The lightning played upon the forest for miles around, tearing ^{the limbs of} the trees to pieces and setting fires. With every flash the forest was light as day and then came darkness so dense that we could scarcely pick our way. A succession of such storms ^{has} ~~destroyed~~ [^] that forest and we have evidence that ^{such} storms have destroyed many forests which have prepared the way for the wants of civilization, so that today where the forests were, there are broad lands ready for farms, gardens, thriving villages and prosperous cities. I look upon war with all its desolation as I look upon the storm or the forest fire which for the time being seem to be inimical to the best of human interests.

inches
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

keeping of the statutes of God than upon the results of fighting or success
of armies. We can see in the light of history how our armies have ^{never been} ~~been~~
the way and have had a great part in conserving our present civilization;
as in our Revolutionary War which established American independence; as in
the war of 1812 which overthrew a particular form of tyranny; as in the
war with Mexico which resulted in getting us our domain from ocean to ocean;
as in the Civil War through which we have passed, in giving us a nation
free from slavery and a constitution which established our state rights
with proper state limitations upon a firmer foundation; and as in the war
with Spain which has removed a fearful nuisance at our doors, giving Cuba
independence and prosperity, and brought Porto Rico and the Philippines
under the American flag. ^{under the American flag} ~~All this was not done with a view to the exten-~~
tion of the Christian religion. ^{Probably no people had these results} ~~Probably no people had these results~~
distinctly in mind, yet these are the ^{results of the Christian religion} ~~results~~
I was once passing through an immense forest on the Pacific Coast
and there came on a terrific storm. In the midst of the storm the trees
were bending and breaking. It was near night and I had but one man, and
he was a soldier, with me. Large trees fell across our pathway. The
lightning played upon the forest for miles around, tearing the trees to
pieces and setting fires. With every flash the forest was lit as day
and then came darkness so dense that we could scarcely pick our way. A
succession of such storms destroyed that forest and we have evidence that
storms have destroyed many forests which have prepared the way for the
waste of civilization, so that today where the forests were, there are broad
lands ready for farms, gardens, thriving villages and prosperous cities.
I look upon war with all its desolation as I look upon the storm or the
forest fire which for the time being seems to be inimical to the best of
human interests.

After our Civil War by the request of Mr. Lincoln I was put in charge of the freedmen and refugees. They were in great ~~want~~ ^{need} and our people strove to relieve their immediate wants, but the conviction was strong upon all thoughtful men that there was something in the line of relief better than to supply immediate physical wants. I said to our Secretary ^{on our first meeting} of war, "Education is the true relief to the freedmen and refugees and their children". There was ^{then} great opposition to the exercises by our general government of such benevolent functions. But ^{these} ~~there~~ were exercised, though not on so large a scale as they ought to have been.

^{Since} ~~After~~ the Spanish War I have noticed that there was but little objection made to the exercises ⁱⁿ of benevolent functions ~~of~~ the government of the Philippines. On the contrary large parties of teachers have been ^{by the United States} sent to that frontier of ours and the teachers ^{were} ~~have been~~ multiplied ~~by~~ five to one from the islands themselves as soon as the islanders were capable of teaching. The war, doubtless, was not prosecuted from the beginning to the end of it with distinctively benevolent purposes. It could ^{have been} not ~~be~~ but just ^{then} as soon as peace was secured, ~~then~~ was the opportunity for the secondary warfare to which I have referred. More and more is the Government of the United States fostering education and the states are establishing universities and carrying forward the instruction of the youth of the land. Surely this is a part of the warfare. Here we have the pickets and the skirmishers on the front and flank carrying knowledge and light to every ^{quarter} ~~corner~~ of our vast domain. Will it not be followed by the whole army; that army of men which believes in and will carry out the idea more and more of putting on the whole armour of salvation?

Easter is a grand occasion throughout the Christian world. It emblemizes the best and the highest leadership. It shows the ^{King of Kings} ~~King~~ who rightfully commands and rightfully leads the Hosts of earth and heaven.

After our Civil War by the request of Mr. Lincoln I was put in charge of the freedmen and refugees. They were in great want and our people strove to relieve their immediate wants, but the conviction was strong upon all thoughtful men that there was something in the line of relief better than to supply immediate physical wants. I said to our Secretary of War, "Education is the true relief to the freedmen and refugees and their children". There was great opposition to the exercises by our general government of such benevolent functions. But there were exercised though not on so large a scale as they ought to have been.

After the Spanish War I have noticed that there was but little objection made to the exercises of benevolent functions of the government of the Philippines. On the contrary large parties of teachers have been sent to that frontier of ours and the teachers have been multiplied five to one from the islands themselves as soon as the islanders were capable of teaching. The war, doubtless, was not prosecuted from the beginning to the end of it with distinctively benevolent purposes. It could not be just as soon as peace was secured, there was the opportunity for the secondary warfare to which I have referred. More and more is the government of the United States fostering education and the states are establishing universities and carrying forward the instruction of the youth of the land. Surely this is a part of the warfare. Here we have the pickets and the skirmishers on the front and flank carrying knowledge and light to every corner of our vast domain. Will it not be followed by the whole army; that army of men which believes in and will carry out the ideas more and more of putting on the whole armor of salvation?

Easter is a grand occasion throughout the Christian world. It emphasizes the best and the highest leadership. It shows the King of Kings who truly commands and righteously leads the hosts of earth and heaven.

One of our chaplains, George Duffield, caught the last words of a wounded minister; words which the minister whispered just as he breathed his last to his aged father, "Stand up for Jesus."

I will close with ^{the Duffield composed & which} a hymn which best expresses to my mind the Church Militant:-

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!

Ye soldiers of the cross;

Lift high his royal banner,

~~Till every foe is vanquished,~~

It must not suffer lost:

From victory unto victory

His army shall He lead,
~~Till every foe is vanquished,~~
 And Christ is Lord indeed.

2

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!

^{triumph}
~~The triumph~~ call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict,

In this his glorious day:

"Ye that are men, now serve Him,"

Against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger,

And strength to strength oppose.

3

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!

Stand in his strength alone;

The arm of flesh will fail you-

Ye dare not trust your own:

Put on the gospel armor,

One of our chaplains, George Duffield, caught the last words of
a wounded minister; words which the minister whispered just as he breathed
his last to his aged father. "Stand up for Jesus."
I will close with a hymn which best expresses to my mind the

Church Militant:-

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high his royal banner,
~~Till every foe is vanquished,~~
It must not suffer loss:
From victory unto victory

His army shall He lead,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

2

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!
The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict,
In this his glorious day:
"Ye that are men, now serve Him,"
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger,
And strength to strength oppose.

3

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!
Stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you-
Ye dare not trust your own;
Put on the Gospel armor,

And, watching unto prayer,
Where duty calls, or danger,
Be never wanting there.

4

Stand up!-stand up for Jesus!
The strife will not be long;
This day, the noise of battle,
The next, the victor's song;
To Him that overcometh,
A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally!

Our Young Men's Christian Associations, Epworth Leagues and Christian Endeavor Societies are covering the world with their efforts to do the most possible to bring the youth of all nations to the knowledge of Christ and to the practice of His precepts. Lest there should be some neglected corner the Press of the land scatters its papers, its booklets and its leaflets, ^{that} so like the leaves of the Tree of Life the printed pages go forth by the million for the healing of the nations.

And today we have the faithful Salvation Army in one form or another, full of self sacrifice, sounding the call of our Master, so that every ear shall hear and every soul be without excuse if he does not join in the battle for the right. And these with all missionaries greatly rejoice at the dawn of every Easter morning.

And, watching unto prayer,
Where duty calls, or danger,
Be never wanting there.

4

Stand up!—stand up for Jesus!
The strife will not be long;
This day, the noise of battle,
The next, the victor's song;
To Him that overcometh,
A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory
Shall reign eternally!

Our Young Men's Christian Associations, Epworth Leagues and
Christian Endeavor Societies are covering the world with their efforts to
do the most possible to bring the youth of all nations to the knowledge of
Christ and to the practice of His precepts. But there should be some
neglected corner the Press of the land scatters its papers, its booklets
and its leaflets, so like the leaves of the Tree of Life the printed pages
go forth by the million for the healing of the nations.
And today we have the Faithful Salvation Army in one form or
another, full of self sacrifice, sounding the call of our Master, so that
every ear shall hear and every soul be without excuse if he does not join
in the battle for the right. And these with all missionaries greatly
rejoice at the dawn of every Easter morning.