

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

TERMS OF PEACE

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“What are the terms of peace?” everyone has long been asking, and asking till very recently in vain. There are terms of peace, and unless those terms are satisfactorily dealt with, there will be war again—and how great and awful war, God only knows. There is not an intelligent child in the civilized world who imagines that a settled peace will be concluded upon any terms, or no terms at all. No, no, no! the powers which can fight must be satisfied or they will fight until they win all that can be won.

And yet is it not the all but universal fancy in connection with religion that peace can be got without any terms of peace whatsoever? “God is merciful,” idly remark the multitude, as though it were impossible to be merciful without losing every particle of sense and truth and justice. Oh yes, “God is merciful,” His terms of peace are merciful, and that is just why He will never abate a jot nor one tittle from them; but will crush with all his might, in everlasting ruin, all who do not accept them. Is anyone reading these lines who has never yet found out upon what terms God will pardon his sins, make him his child and receive him to glory, or who knowing them has hitherto neglected to submit to them? Do not, we entreat you, delaying any longer to complete the settlement, for God’s terms will never be lowered, and your only time to comply with them is now.

Only too often we may hear well-intentioned people talk as though there were “no conditions of salvation.” “It is God’s free gift,” say they. Oh, yes, peace is always the “free gift” of the conqueror, who has power to prolong war and bloodshed if he pleases; but just in order that the gift of peace, bestowed upon a former enemy, may be of value, it is necessary that it should be made upon such conditions as to ensure its enjoyment, for a length of time, by both parties. There is a “free gift” of quietude where a general who is besieging a fortress orders his men to “cease firing” and sends word to the besieged that if they will evacuate the place within three hours he will let them go and fire upon them no longer. But that is not a peace. It is merely a cessation of hostilities. The besieged have no opportunity of making an agreement which may be of use to them



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further on. They have leave to run away, and that is all. Whether they are to go out to greater shame, and danger, and suffering still, there is no one to say. One thing only is certain. There is no peace, and in three hours they will once more be made to feel it as keenly as ever, if they remain where they are.

Now salvation does not consist in running away from God, but in coming close to Him, and that He will never allow a guilty sinner to do, except upon the conditions so clearly and repeatedly laid down in His word. Salvation is free enough in the sense that it is held out to every living being, and it is a gift, since no one can purchase it; but God will not *look* to a man, let alone giving him salvation, except the man be "humble and contrite," and trembles at His word. We cannot, therefore, too ceaselessly or vehemently urge upon all the acceptance of God's terms of peace, for it is only by the most childlike submission to them that anyone can escape eternal damnation.

The thunders of heaven are suspended. Long suffering looks with tearful eyes upon a doomed world. The King of Kings cries out "Why will ye die?" The very heavens seem shrouded in darkness, and the earth is covered with violence and fraud and horror and anguish, whilst amidst the awful pause, we, the messengers of the Most High, are sent forward to offer mercy to our deluded fellow men, who, beneath the serfdom of the dragon of hell are ready to fight on to their own destruction. "What terms?" "What terms?"

SUBMISSION.

"Lay down your arms, and come out of that." Give up your sins and your sinful companions. "God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." We insist upon it that everything which is known to be contrary to God shall be confessed, given up, abandoned altogether, and that every power and faculty of every human being shall be laid down at the feet of Jesus.

"The voice of wisdom cries, Be in time
To give up every sin,
In earnest now begin;
The night will soon set in, Be in time."



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We will sound it out with all our might every day. It shall echo in every street and lane. We will shout it through every window. They shall hear it from one end of the land to the other. We will din it into their ears whether they will or no, until their hearts dissolve with fear. There is no time to lose. "The Judge is at the door." No haggling nor bargaining. "Give up all, give up at once, or be damned for ever." There is no other way. There is no other hope. The light is come. Come out of the darkness and walk in the light, or if you prefer your evil deeds you shall go into outer darkness, where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth for ever and ever. No more fighting against God! Stop it, and stop it now, or He will sweep you away like a flood!

There is no other gospel. "Grace, mercy and peace." Oh! yes, "Grace, mercy and peace be multiplied" to everybody who submits; but to those who have not submitted, whosoever they be, "indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish" without measure and without end. God help us to be faithful. There are swarms of smooth prophets today. May we be honest ones! Upon our first term we must insist, for without its most unqualified acceptance we cannot hope to establish our second.

LIBERATION.

No more bondage! No more oppression! Liberty! Perfect liberty for everybody everywhere! Liberty for ever!

We won't have people merely hoping that they will get to heaven at last, hoping they are saved, hoping that it is all right because Christ has died. No, no, no. After that fearful bloodshed a hope of something to come! Never! There must be something now!

"I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me;
That on the cross He shed His blood,
From sin to set me free."

Sinners shall be set free! The burden shall roll right away. The chain of the Devil shall be broken clean off the very wrist and ankle—not a link of it! People shall know on the earth that their sins are forgiven by the Son of Man. They shall know



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and feel that old things are passed away, and that all things are become new. They shall feel that the blood washes them white as snow. From their happy hearts shall burst the joyous cry of the free, and leaving the life of sinful slavery behind them, they shall arise and march forward in the paths of "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

More than that! We will not have people troubled with a continual inner conflict between the Holy Spirit lusting against the flesh and the flesh against the Spirit. We will not have God's children sometimes pleasing and sometimes displeasing Him, sometimes triumphing over the Devil, and sometimes triumphed over by him, to some extent free from his dominion, and to some extent, or at one time after another brought again into doubt, and condemnation, and darkness, and sin. No, no, no! No tribute to the old oppressor. Our Master has come to "save His people from their sins." His "will be done on earth as it is done in heaven!" If the saints in glory must need go wrong sometimes, if they must feel at times a struggle raging in their own breasts between the will to please God and do good, and the force of an evil nature lusting to do evil, or holding back from doing good, then we will tolerate the idea that saints on earth must endure this kind of thing. But if in heaven there is spotless purity, and perfect love, and absolute freedom from sin, and unbroken fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ, it shall all be on earth as well.

Our Master is the King of glory. All power is given unto Him in haven and on earth, and in His people's hearts and lives He shall have it all his own way. Even if the great neutral powers, the professors of religion who "don't believe in going to extremes" object, we will insist all the more violently upon the possession and enjoyment, by all our co-religionists, of full salvation. Out with the Devil, bag and baggage! He shall have nothing in us, and shall get nothing out of us!

More than that! We will not have anybody hampered in serving God with customs, rules, usages, and systems of man's devising. We will not have services conducted in one set invariable routine. Much less will we have men and women bound down as to what they shall say or do in worshipping God and testifying for Him. Contrary to Him, disagreeing with His truth, opposing or obstructing His work, we will have nothing from anybody, rich or poor, learned or ignorant. But under the moving of His Spirit, bringing out His truth, helping or urging forward His work, we will have anything and everything He may incline His



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people to offer. The new convert shall sputter out His joy, the poor widow shall whisper her trust in Him, the strong warrior shall roar indoors as well as out, the eloquent man shall have full opportunity to do his uttermost and the "poor speaker" shall be allowed to do his little. Men shall lift up holy hands and holy bodies too, if they like. People shall jump for joy, if the love of Christ constraineth them. Everybody shall move just as God moves them, until beneath His power, according to His promise, we see sinners fall like felled bullocks to the ground, and until, from every service we hold, there goes up from the surging, swaying, spirit-filled, rapturous throng a mighty voice, like the sound of many waters they make around the throne above. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty!"

And will they protest! Will they manage to call us anything worse than "drunk," or beside ourselves? Will they try to put us down? Can they ever think worse than that "it is not fit that such fellows" should live? Suppose they did their very worst, in the name of decency, and order, and religion, to put a stop to our proceedings anywhere, what would happen then? Surely something very solemn and staid, and proper, and dignified? Not a bit of it. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in derision." Never mind anybody! In His name we will do as we like! And we will not only ride straight over anything that comes in the way of perfect freedom for ourselves and everybody, but even from people who dislike our ways, we will have

INDEMNITY.

War costs money, and money we must have, and money we shall get as sure as we are faithful to Him who hath called us into His vineyard. Not that we want money for its own sake, nor that we want much at all. We do not want a farthing beyond what is necessary to meet the expense of subjugating England to Jesus Christ.

We prefer territory to anything else. We hunger and thirst day and night to annex more, and more, and more. "Souls, souls, souls," is the cry going up from every heart throughout our lines. Men women and children we have got, we are getting, we will get day after day. We will go on adding them as fast as ever we can. Cities and towns! We have just annexed half a dozen more before another magazine reaches our readers. We will have them. We will have the country! Every inch of it!



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Where the dragon has laid, is lying all his horrid length, where unbelief, and drunkenness, and debauchery, and despair, and damnation abounded, grace shall much more abound. Our flag, the flag of God, shall float over a liberated country and a happy people. Truth and peace and love and holiness, and heaven below shall triumph everywhere. Devils shall fear and fly, and Jesus shall reign!

These are our terms. We will make no peace on any less. Till we have enforced them we will fight and work and pray, without ceasing. We will spend all we have, and are, and gladly lay down our very lives if need be. But we shall win! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen!

