

# 50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

## RUSHING INTO WAR

The Christian Mission Magazine, May, 1878

The description of the actual condition of our country in these words of one of its wisest statesmen is awful indeed. "Rushing into war"—rushing away from the honorable and useful paths of peace, into all the bitterness and hazard, and misery of national strife with men who have done us no wrong, who do not wish to do us any, for reasons which nobody can really explain—such is said to be the present attitude of England, so far as its government and highest circles can control matters. It may be that the grace of God operating through some who are yet true to Him, and using the common sense of which many have not yet abandoned the exercise, may stave off and even avert the horrid calamity; but to all appearance the English are for rushing into the battlefield, to add to all the horrors of the past, fresh bloodshed, multiplied anguish, intensified miseries, and God only knows what beside. Let every one who values the favor of God do what in them lies to prevent such war. But whatever the Godless governments of our own or any other country do, thank God we are more than ever determined to fight only for Him.

### THE EMPIRE IS IN DANGER.

The big empty words of the panic-mongers, whose folly is endangering our country more than anything else, are only too true, though in a very different way from that which they intend.

Yes, the empire is in danger, and no mistake. It is in danger of perishing through the disregard of God, the profanity, the open iniquity, the drunkenness, and debauchery, and profligacy of every kind which becomes more manifest every day. That wholesome regard for the Sunday, which used to distinguish some classes at least, and which exercised at least some little influence in deterring others from making the day one incessant scene of profligate folly, is passing away, and the whole people from the highest to the lowest are learning more utterly to cast off regard for God, like the nations round about.



# 50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

Look at the children swarming through our streets. How vast a proportion of them are learning to smoke, and drink, and use bad language almost in infancy. Observe the main thoroughfares during the time of service on Sunday evenings, and late into the night. See how many millions of the youth of both sexes are swarming along. Listen to the wild, giddy half shouted talk of many. Glance through the opening doors of the public-houses and see the proportion of women drinking there, "decent women" as they would be called. Look forward to the days when these shall be the middle-aged mass of the nation. Remember that from the education of the rising race any distinct and effective excluded. The nation has chosen to treat religion as a "difficulty," and to banish it from the children's path. The nation has deliberately chosen to forget God.

The sons of today's working man may climb if they choose by persevering labor to the highest positions, and the influence of the classes who have hitherto wielded so much power will continue to wane and die away before the ever-rising tide of an educated, vigorous people—stirred by the love of gain, if by no higher motive to seek for advancement—so that the future of this country lies entirely, so far as man is concerned, in the hands of these boys and girls whom you now see in training under every sort of evil influence. Awake to the dangers! Nay, it is more than a danger. It is an awful prospect which only the mighty power of God, can alter—the prospect of a great, wealthy, educated people, more utterly lost to God, more deliberately and universally abandoned to drunkenness and infidelity, and vice of every kind, any people ever has been in the world's history.

Look at the "religious bodies." You will find amongst them all a growing unwillingness to stand up for any clear decided tones as to the truth of God. They are striving to be more educated, more refined, more attractive to the world, that is to say, more like it. Where is there a burning zeal for God, a defiance of society, a vigorous open attack upon unbelief and sin? Is it not notorious that any attempt to move the population of a town or neighborhood religiously, is openly described as "special services," a plain admission that no such thing is aimed at ordinarily. Except here and there, the churches, even when themselves maintaining something like a true testimony amongst their own little circle abandon a sinking nation to its fate. Everywhere there is coldness, formality, darkness, death, and our country has no spiritual prospect before it but one of utter ruin.



# 50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

Oh, we entreat you, awake to the awful reality! All that every power in Europe could do against our country is as nothing compared with the fearful desolation that sin is bringing upon us. Yet forty years, nay, twenty at the most, and England shall be destroyed by sin as no such nation ever was destroyed, unless some mighty Divine influence arrests the plague. Shall we live to see the very name of God laughed out of every home? Shall we live to hear the simplest ideas of home, truth, and honor, and modesty, made the laughingstock of the multitude, as has been the case elsewhere? Shall we live to see our countrymen sunk in the barbarous abyss of drunkenness, debauchery, and ruffianism, into which they are so rapidly sinking? Shall we live to see a drunken, gambling, profligate monarch reign over a people reduced to his own level? Men and women of God awake; open your eyes! The empire is in danger!

## NO CONFERENCE!

There have been more than enough conferences, and congresses, and committees, and deliberations. It is time to act. There is not a moment to lose.

No conference with flesh and blood! There cannot be any question about what we have to do. There cannot be any doubt that God calls us to do it. If we see that our brethren are rushing into hell, how can there be any doubt as to whether we are called to do our utmost to stop them.

Oh, but——! But what? Here are the plain facts staring us in the face. The devil hold fast in his slavish chains the multitude around us. Their children, their future are all at his mercy. He will overcome them all. He will destroy every good influence. He will seize every rising power and wrap his horrible arms around every springing plant. Does the Lord call me to do anything? Of course He does. He calls upon every soldier He has to take the whole armor and march forth, leaving all for Him, without a moment's delay. Reserves! What business have we with any reserves in the army of the Lord? Where does the book sanction any reserves?

When Jesus sat amidst his disciples one day, word was brought Him that His sneering relatives after the flesh wished to see Him. "Who are my mother and my brethren?" He asked, and well might he ask the same question today amongst



# 50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

even the idle throng of formal worshippers who bow the knee and not the heart, or who have the name to love, and are dead.

Oh, ye blood relations of the throne, ye men and women who are born again of the Holy Ghost, must ye needs be stirred by some angel, by some vision, by some special message from on high? Do ye want some special warrant from the King of kings to summon you to arms? Shall iniquity triumph? Shall God be forgotten, and His name be blotted out?

Men and brethren, what must we do? Must we confer together, must we doubt, and hesitate, and hang back, or must we rise as one man, and in the name of Jesus of Nazareth command Satan to depart out of our coasts? We read of this man, and that man, who have risen up, and casting themselves before God, have given up their lives to His service, and have gone forth to do great things. Why not twenty, fifty, an hundred such men and women at once? We have seen but lately some of our own brothers and sisters who have often times doubted of their own call to do great things, going forth in the name of the Lord, trembling and weeping sometimes, but conquering gloriously. We know that there are others hesitating still passing sleepless nights and weary anxious days, and wonderingly asking if God has called them, or can use them to do any great thing.

No more conference! No more doubt! No more delay! Arise ye children of the light, and buckle on the armor bright, and now prepare yourselves to fight, against the world and Satan. We are all called to be saints. We are all called to be the brothers and sisters of Jesus, to fight with Him, for Him, with every particle of strength we have to the last gasp. That is enough. No more conference!

THE HOUR IS COME.

"The midnight cry." Thank God not yet! That will be an awful moment, when we are required to abandon everybody; to leave the wicked of the earth; to leave them to perish whilst we hasten unto the supper of the Lord. That hour is fast approaching. We have to try to lessen its horrors by making the best use we can of the present hour.



# 50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

God is looking round to see who will stand up for Him in these dark, awful days. He is looking at you! What do you say? Do you see the scarred brow, and the torn hands and feet? Do you see the marred face, sorrowful, eager, glowing with love and anxiety for the perishing? Do you hear that voice of love, of tender sadness, that searching voice that will make itself heard? "Who are my mother and my brethren?" Are you going to be one of them?

You have got your mother and your brethren. You are surrounded, very likely, with a circle of people who admire, and love, and trust, and care for you. Do you say "Oh, yes, bless the Lord, I have a goodly heritage."

Do you hear him? "Who are *my* mother and *my* brethren?" Oh, is it not time for you to leave all and follow Him; giving yourself, henceforth, as He gave Himself to do the will of His father in heaven. How many are there who are loving and serving God with a mother's, with a brother's, with a sister's heart? Are you one of them? Oh, settle it before God, and may he not be ashamed to call any of us brethren in the great day of truth and light.

