THE

BOOK OF PEACE:

A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS

ON

WAR AND PEACE.

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PREFACE.

There has been, since the time of the gifted Erasmus, a great deal of eloquent writing on Peace; and the following pages contain the best productions on the subject not only of past ages, but of our own. No theme has ever waked a purer or loftier inspiration; and on no topic in the whole range of morals, theology, or general literature, can there be found finer specimens of taste and eloquence. We have also culled from a wide as well as luxuriant field;—from the gardens of intellect and learning in both hemispheres, from some of the best writers in the last three centuries, from men of every faith, Protestant and Catholic, Orthodox and Unitarian, Episcopal, Baptist and Presbyterian. The subject is itself a sort of Delos, whither the best spirits of every party, creed and clime gather to blend in sweet and hallowed sympathy; and these pages exhibit a constellation of the peaceful pleiads pouring their mingled splendors on this common theme of religion, humanity and Christian patriotism.

We have studied the utmost brevity possible, and have sometimes condensed quite a volume into a short essay, without the omission of any essential argument, illustration or fact. Some of these tracts are of necessity selections, yet give both the sentiments and language of their respective authors. We have only condensed for the sake of greater brevity, economy and force. The work is truly multum in parvo, a thesaurus of information on peace.
containing a far greater amount of facts, statistics and arguments on its various topics, than our own or any other language can furnish in thrice the compass.

Hardly any references are given, because they could not be without occupying too much space for such a work; but we have authority, good and ample, for the most astounding statements in this volume, and our readers may rely on the substantial accuracy of them all. We cannot flatter ourselves, that they will assent at once to every position here taken on a subject so vast, and of such various aspects and bearings; but we feel quite sure, that every intelligent, fair-minded Christian will readily respond to nine in ten, if not to ninety-nine in a hundred of the sentiments enforced, and that even in the remaining case there will be found a kind and Christian spirit, such as an Apostle would enjoin, and a martyr breathe.

G. C. B.

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CONTENTS.

No. 1.—Cause of Peace, ........................................ 1
  2.—A Sketch of War: what it is, and what it does,.......... 9
  3.—Testimonies against War, .................................. 21
  4.—War and the Bible, ........................................ 33
  5.—War Curable, ............................................... 37
  6.—Four Aspects of War, ...................................... 49
  7.—Universal Peace; by David Bogue, D. D., ................. 54
  8.—Military Discipline, ...................................... 65
  9.—Erasmus on War, .......................................... 77
 10.—Russian Campaign, ...................................... 81
 11.—Union in Peace, .......................................... 93
 12.—Military Preparations, ................................... 101
 13.—Progress of Peace, or how much already gained in the cause, 105
 14.—Waste of Property by War, ................................ 113
 15.—Appeal to Cities, ....................................... 125
 16.—War Inconsistent with Christianity; by Howard Malcom, D. D. 129
 17.—War Unlawful under the Christian Dispensation; by J. J. Gurney, 137
 18.—Chalmers on Peace, ...................................... 149
 19.—Chief Evil of War; by William E. Channing, D. D., ....... 157
 20.—Loss of Life by War, ..................................... 161
 21.—Witnesses for Peace, .................................... 173
 22.—Views of War; by Robert Hall, .......................... 177
 23.—The Early Christians on War; by Thomas Clarkson, ...... 181
 24.—War-Debts of Europe, ................................... 193
 25.—Results of one War, ...................................... 197
 26.—Neckar on Peace, ....................................... 201
 27.—Peace Practicable, ...................................... 209
 28.—Substitutes for War, .................................... 213
 29.—Arbitration as a Substitute for War, ...................... 217
 30.—Congress of Nations, ................................... 229
 31.—Extinction of War; by Hon. Josiah Quincy, L.L. D., .... 253
 32.—War Unchristian, ......................................... 257
 33.—Insensibility to the Evils of War; by W. E. Channing, D. D., 269
 34.—Claims of Peace on all Christians, ........................ 277
 35.—The only Remedy for War; by W. E. Channing, D. D., .... 289
 36.—A Solemn Review of War; by Noah Worcester, D. D., .... 293
 37.—Sieges, .................................................. 305
 38.—A Glimpse of War; by W. E. Channing, D. D., .......... 313
 39.—Military Hospitals, ..................................... 325
 40.—Safety of Pacific Principles, ............................ 333
 41.—War-Prayers, ............................................. 357
 42.—Claims of Peace on Women, ................................ 361
 43.—Solemn Appeal; by William Ladd, ........................ 373
 44.—The Battle-Field, ........................................ 393
 45.—Inefficacy of War; by Hon. William Jay, ................ 397
 46.—Militia Drills, .......................................... 409
 47.—United States Navy—What is its use? by Samuel E. Cotes, 413
 48.—Mistakes about Peace, ................................... 421
 49.—Peace and Government; by Geo. C. Beckwith, ................ 425
 50.—Criminality of War; by Howard Malcom, D. D., ........... 433
 51.—War a Destroyer of Souls, ................................ 449
 52.—War and the Hearth, or the Influence of War on Domestic Happiness ......................... 457
No. 53.—Plain Sketches of War; by R. P. Stebbins, 469
" 54.—Grímé on Peace, 473
" 55.—War as a Judicial Redress, 485
" 56.—War and Missions, 489
" 57.—Causes of War; by Jonathan Dymond, 501
" 58.—Moral Results of War; by Jonathan Dymond, 509
" 59.—War Unlawful for Christians; by Jonathan Dymond, 517
" 60.—Efficacy of Pacific Principles; by Jonathan Dymond, 541
" 61.—Rights of Self-Defence, 545
" 62.—War a Trial by Battle; by Charles Sumner, 549
" 63.—True Grandeur of Nations; by Charles Sumner, 553
" 64.—Claims of Peace on Literary Men, 577
Index, 595