

1225.

War in the Heavens.

Eph vi. 12.

Hymns. 395. "Christian! dost thou see them?"
400 "O God of truth whose living word"
401. "Soldiers of Christ, arise."
394 "Christian! seeke not yet repose!"

Scripture. Isa 4x.

Place.

Town

Date

Place.

Town

Year

Westminster Chapel
Jubilee Church

London
Sunstall

Aug. 16. 1914
Sep 16 "

Ephesians VI. 12.

"Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood;
But Against The Principalities,
Against The Powers,
Against The World-Rulers of this Darkness,
Against The Spiritual hosts of wickedness
in the heavenly places".

Introduction.

I propose no academic discussion of this Text, but rather a most practical and immediate application of its teaching.

We are all conscious of the strangely weird appeal of its suggestions; and this the more, as we remember that the man who wrote these words was no dreamer, haunted by fantastic notions, and incapable of seeing the near things of life, actually and wholesomely. The whole paragraph from which the Text is taken follows one in which the Apostle had been contemplating the home; and dealing with such practical matters as those of the relations between husbands and wives, parents and children, servants and masters.

Paul was pre-eminently practical; but he saw life as not wholly accounted for, or conditioned by, the things seen. To him all the things of truth, of honour, of justice, of purity, of levelness, of good report; the things of virtue, and of praise, resulted from human thinking, guarded by the peace of God in Christ Jesus. And so also he saw the conditions of evil, graphically described in our text by the pregnant phrase "this darkness, as resulting from the destructive rule of spiritual wickedness.

It is to this view of life that I desire to draw attention now; and that in order to a clear understanding of its bearing on the situation in which we find ourselves today, and which may indeed be described as - This Darkness.

Let us then consider;

- A. The Apostolic Conception.
- B. The Present Manifestation.
- C. "Our Wrestling".

A. The Apostolic Conception. "This Darkness".

I The Central Description "This Darkness".

- i. Life without light.
- ii. Dooting without seeing.
- iii. Obfuscation. Spiritual. Moral.

II The Revealed Cause.

i "The spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavens"

- a. Spiritualities. (Pneumatika)
- b. Wickedness. Evil as malignant - harmful.
- c. Heavens. As in distinction to Earthly.

ii "The World Rulers"

One Word.

Those who have seized upon the World.

iii "Principalities". "Authorities".

The Suggestion of Rank; and so of system, method.

III The Conception.

i That the apparent is the result of the hidden.

ii That the natural is the Expression of the Super-natural.

iii That material Calamities result from Spiritual malignity.

iv That the true warfare of the Church is in this sphere.

The philosophy of Nietzsche

"Nothing is true - Everything is permitted
to the Strong."

B. The Present Manifestation.

I The Inspirations of war.

i. In the human mind.

Lust for power ~ ~ ~ Prestige ~ ~ Honour(?)

Those mastered by it

Those resisting.

[These perhaps righteously

The beginning was the same ~ ~]

ii In the human Conscience.

Denial of morality.

A philosophy of denial

An apotheosis of brute force.

[The Defiance of morality.

The beginning was the same. ~]

iii The origin.

"Spiritualities of wickedness".

Human Submission.

Pride. Hate. Fraud.

This is the profoundest region

The clearest place in this war is

the field of Blood.

The fiercest is the spiritual darkness
in which it was made possible.

Here is the true horror.

Let us shudder in the right place.

And then remember.

"Our wrestling ~ ~ ~ ~".



C. "Our Watchword."

I General.

i Inclusive.

"Be strong in the Lord; and in the strength of His
might."

ii Instructive.

a "The Panoply of God."

i That which makes Him invincible.

Truth.

Girdle

Righteousness.

Breastplate

The Evangel of Peace

Shoes

Faith.

Shield

Salvation

Helmet

The Word of God.

Sword

b. Praying - Watching.

II Particular.

i Getting into grips with the foe.

a. Light in Darkness.

b. Love in Action.

c. Comradeship in Need.

ii Keeping in touch with God.

Conclusion.

The Church at the Disposal of the People.

The Church inspiring the Rulers.

Note.

*The introduction of the athletic figure in
the midst of the military.*

"Wrestling".

One by One.

No tripling this!