

**WAR INCONSISTENT WITH  
THE RELIGION OF JESUS  
CHRIST, AS IT IS INHUMAN,  
UNWISE, AND CRIMINAL**

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War Inconsistent with the Religion of Jesus Christ, as It Is Inhuman, Unwise, and Criminal by  
David Low Dodge

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**DAVID LOW DODGE**

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—♦♦♦♦♦—  
"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." *Isaia*

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by  
David Low Dodge  
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*District of New-York, ss.*

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the tenth day of April, in the thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, Messrs. DODGE & SAYRE, of the said district, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, viz.

“ War Inconsistent with the Religion of Jesus Christ, as it is Inhuman, Unwise, and Criminal

“ And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” Isaiah.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled “ an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned.” And also to an Act, entitled “ an Act supplementary to an Act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints.”

Theron RUDD,

*Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.*

## PREFACE.

WHETHER war is really inconsistent with the religion of Jesus Christ, or not, is an inquiry of great importance to every Christian, especially, since its effects spread such distress in the world that the earth often bleeds at almost every pore.

While it is admitted by every christian that if the gospel universally influenced the hearts and actions of all mankind, it would totally destroy the spirit and practice of war from the face of the earth, it appears to be a self-evident proposition that war is contrary to the religion of Jesus Christ.

Since however it is a melancholy truth that christians do engage in war with their fellow men, and since the nature and practical consequences of war, are such, it forms the strongest apology for offering an examination of it in the light of the gospel to the public.

In the following pages, I have considered war as *inhuman, unwise and criminal*, and have endeavoured to state and answer a number of popular objections, interspersing such general observations as were calculated to elucidate the subject.

This plan is adopted for other reasons than its strict accuracy. It is obvious that whoever is inhuman is also criminal, but these topics may be better illustrated separately than if blended together.

As I trust my object is to promote "peace on earth and good will to men," I cannot but indulge a hope that some may read the following remarks with that serious and candid attention which the importance of the subject demands.

THE AUTHOR.



# WAR

INCONSISTENT WITH THE

## RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST.

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**HUMANITY**, wisdom, and goodness at once combine all that can be *great* and *lovely* in man. Inhumanity, folly and wickedness reverse the picture, and at once represent all that can be *odious* and *hateful*. The former are the spirit of Heaven, and the latter the offspring of hell.

The spirit of the gospel not only breathes "glory to God in the highest, but on earth *peace*, and *good will to men*." The wisdom from above is first *pure*, then *peaceable*, *gentle*, *easy to be entreated*. But the wisdom from beneath is *earthly*, *sensual* and *devilish*.

It is exceedingly strange that any one under the light of the gospel professing to be guided by its blessed precepts, with the Bible in his hand, while the whole creation around him is so often groaning under the weight and terrors of war, should have doubts whether any kind of wars under the gospel dispensation, except spiritual warfare, can be the dictate of

any kind of wisdom, except that from beneath ; and much more so, to believe that they are the fruit of the divine spirit, which is *love, joy and peace*.

An inspired Apostle has informed us from whence some wars and fightings. They come from the *lusts of men* that war in their members.

Ever since the fall mankind have had naturally within them a spirit of *pride, avarice and revenge*. The gospel is directly opposite to this spirit. It teaches humility, it inculcates love, it breathes pity and forgiveness even to enemies ; and forbids rendering *evil for evil* to any man.

Believing as I do, after much reflection, and as I trust prayerful investigation of the subject, that all kinds of carnal warfare are unlawful upon gospel principles, I shall now endeavor to prove that WAR is INHUMAN, UNWISE, and CRIMINAL ; and then make some general remarks, and state and answer several objections.

In attempting to do this, I shall not always confine myself strictly to this order of the subject ; but shall occasionally make such remarks as may occur directly or indirectly, to shew that the whole genius of war is contrary to the spirit and precepts of the gospel.

## WAR IS INHUMAN.

That it is inhuman I observe,

1. *It hardens the heart and blunts the tender feelings of mankind.*

That it is the duty of mankind to be tender hearted, feeling for the distress of others, and to do all in their power to prevent and alleviate their misery, is evident not only from the example of the son of God, but the precepts of the gospel.

When the Saviour of sinners visited this dark and cruel world, he became a man of sorrow and was acquainted with grief; so that he was touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

He went about continually healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, unstopping the ears of the deaf, raising the dead; as well as preaching the *gospel of peace* to the poor.

He visited the houses of affliction, and poured the balm of consolation into the wounded heart. He mourned with those that mourned, and wept with those that wept. Love to God and man flowed from this eternal fountain, pure as the river of life, refreshing the thirsty desert around him.

He was not only affectionate to his friends but kind to his enemies. He returned love for their hatred and blessing for their cursing.

When he was surrounded by all the powers of darkness and resigned himself into the hands of sinners to