

**DEFENSIVE WAR PROVED TO BE A
DENIAL OF CHRISTIANITY AND
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD:
WITH ILLUSTRATIVE FACTS AND
ANECDOTES**

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Defensive War Proved to Be a Denial of Christianity and of the Government of God: With Illustrative Facts and Anecdotes by Henry C. Wright

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HENRY C. WRIGHT

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BY

HENRY C. WRIGHT.

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PREFACE.

I entreat all who may peruse this little work to do so in a spirit of kindness and candor. If defensive war necessarily involves the principles and practices which I have attributed to it, then the most superficial thinker and reader must admit that my conclusions are sound. I have not been particular in classifying my facts and arguments; but I have endeavoured to bring them all to bear upon the object of the work, which is to establish the conviction in the minds of my readers, that war is irreconcilable with Christianity. While I bow to the divine authority of Christianity, as a peaceful, bloodless instrumentality, appointed and approved of God to regenerate and redeem the world, I denounce all religion that sanctions war whether offensive or defensive.

I have given many details of the miseries and horrors of war; not to gratify a morbid appetite, or to harrow up the feelings of the reader, but solely to illustrate principles and practices that are inseparable from all war. Let the advocates of war here behold in all its horrible wickedness that system which they declare to be sanctioned by Christianity, approved of God, and useful to man; let them see what war is and must be; let them look at its details, and face its results. If defensive war be ever

right and Christian, even in the last extremity of provocation, then every scene of horror recorded in this book, however revolting and shocking, may be reconciled with the spirit and precepts of Christianity; for such deeds are its inevitable accompaniments.

I attach no guilt or responsibility to war as an institution or a custom; all the guilt and responsibility rest primarily on those who plead for it; and secondarily, on their agents, the soldiers. Especially do I regard a church and clergy who patronize war as pre-eminent in guilt, for they give to deeds at which humanity shudders, whatever respectability and attraction the sanctions of Christianity can impart to them. Let them not think to escape the guilt and responsibility of the blood shed in war, by endeavouring, as is frequently attempted, to lay the blame upon an abstraction, a system, or a custom. This were to take the responsibility from the willing perpetrators of the evil, to charge it upon a nonentity.

HENRY CLARKE WRIGHT.

*Peaton Cottage, Roseneath,
August 29, 1846.*

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