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## 1861 - The Holy War - Harriet Beecher Stowe

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Harriet Beecher Stowe

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1861 - The Holy War - Harriet Beecher Stowe



Harriet Beecher Stowe, -1896. , ca. 1880. Photograph.  
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*Harriet Beecher Stowe is best remembered as the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin (1853). The novel became the best-selling book of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of The Bible. With a gripping plot, unforgettable characters, and a compelling story, her book provided a boost to the abolitionist movement. Her fame became such that when Abraham Lincoln met her in 1862, he allegedly called her the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war."*

The Holy War:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written that no man knew but he himself. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon his white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”—Rev. XIX, 11, 12, 14.

To the last battle set, throughout the earth!  
Not for vile lust or plunder or power.  
The hosts of justice and eternal right  
Unfurl their banner in this solemn hour. . . .

A King rides forth, whose eyes, as blazing fire,  
Wither oppression in their dazzling flame,  
And he hath sworn to right all human wrong  
By the dread power of his mysterious name. . . .

And all the armies that behind him ride  
Come in white raiment, spotless as the snow—  
“Freedom and justice” is their battle-cry,  
And all the earth rejoices as they go.

Shoulder to shoulder ride the brother bands—  
Brave heart and tender, with undaunted eye:  
With manly patience ready to endure  
With gallant daring resolute to die. . . .

O, brothers, banded for this sacred war!  
Keep your white garments spotless still and pure;  
Be priestly warriors, hallowing the right—  
So shall our victory be swift and sure.

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So shall the spotless King with whom ye ride  
Make vile disorder from the earth to cease;  
And Time's triumphant songs at last shall hail,  
The victory of a true and righteous peace.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, "The Holy War," *The London Independent*, May 9, 1861.



Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Uncle Tom's cabin. [Philadelphia, H. Altemus company, 1900] Pdf. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <[www.loc.gov/item/00004791/](http://www.loc.gov/item/00004791/)>.