

## TO A CHRISTIAN IN THE ARMY.

MY DEAR BROTHER :—I need hardly remind you that your present situation has much that is unfavorable to the culture of the Christian graces. The very idea of war implies as much. You are removed from the restraints of Church, family, social life, and a regulated public opinion ; and exposed to scenes in camp, that are unfriendly to virtue as well as piety ; the more often in contact with ungodly, and often sceptical men, who sneer at all religion as delusive, or deceptive ; and compelled to witness sin so constantly, that you are in danger of losing that horror of it which you ought constantly to cherish. The force of these things is mournfully attested by the number of professed christians, who have fallen away in the army, marking a sorrowful career which beginning at the communion table, ends in the grave of the drunkard, the blasphemer or the gambler. That these influences may be counteracted is proven by the many bright examples of those who have shown that a christian soldier is as possible now as it ever has been. Pardon then a few suggestions to enable you to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

1. Remember that you are a witness for Jesus in your present position, and that your obligations are increased rather than lessened by entering the army. That "light of the world" and "salt of the earth," that is so needful in the quiet of peaceful society, is much more needful in a state of things where thousands of men are brought together under circumstances likely to develop all that is evil in their hearts, many of whom are to die away from the influences of religion, and the rest to return home to communicate there the moral character they have formed in the

army. You never needed your religion more than you do now, and never had more reason to cultivate it.

2. Take special heed of your heart. The most vigilant watch is always kept at the place most likely to be assailed, and all experience shows that in the christian warfare, that is the heart. This watchfulness is the more needful because of the absence of the aids you once enjoyed in keeping alive the love of God, and the mingled monotony and excitement of camp life, while you pace your solitary round as a sentinel, or do duty as a scout or picket. You may often commune with your heart, discover its condition before God, and "Strengthen the things that remain."

3. Keep up as far as possible the religious habits of your home life. You may not always be able to keep the Sabbath, and observe religious duties in the week, as you did in peace, but you may always "remember" the Sabbath, and redeem as much of its time to holy uses as possible; may daily read some portion of Scripture; may have worship in your tent when in camp, and often in the weariness of a march; may pray in private, even if you are compelled to kneel in the sight of your comrades; and by thus keeping up the devotional habits of home, may meet its dear ones in the stated approaches which you make in concert to the "blood-bought mercy seat." The brave Havelock always gained time for his religious duties by rising two hours before drum-beat, and thus kept alive the grace of God in his heart. If you intermit the regular, stated discharge of these duties, you are in danger of omitting them altogether.

4. Do not be ashamed of Christ. It is neither needful nor proper to make a sanctimonious ostentation of your religion, but it is equally improper to make a timid concealment of it. A gentle and quiet, but firm and fearless avowal of your religion will gain you the respect of even

Cont  
Pam  
12 m  
#927

the ungodly, and protect you from many a solicitation to sin. In battle there is generally more safety in facing the foe than in flying, for the greatest slaughter is usually on the retreating columns, and so it is in the Christian warfare. The panoply of its armor has no defence for the back. Show your colors, and then stand to them.

5. Seek to honor Christ by your conduct. Many think that a Christian is either a gloomy, morose ascetic, or a pitiful, canting coward, who assumes religion as a cloak for indolence, or poltroonery. Show by your conduct that all this is a mistake. Be cheerful, hopeful, ready for any innocent relaxation, mirthful if need be, for no man ought to be happier than a christian, and true religion never yet made a man less happy, if he understood and received it aright. Be also prompt and manly in every duty and danger, shirking no call to labor, bearing heroically your needful privations, calmly trusting God in the hour of peril, knowing that his protection is around you then, as much as in your quiet home, and showing by your coolness and courage, that the same religion that makes you bow "like a bulrush" before God, will also make you stand "like a stone wall" before man.

6. Seek opportunities of doing good. The depression, sickness or wounding of your comrades will present many such. A word thus, will often lead the soul to Jesus, and as you show kindness to body and mind, you will have ready access to the soul. Supply yourself as far as possible with tracts, to meet such opportunities, and give them judiciously. The delicate duty of reproving sin, may often thus be performed successfully. This may be done so as to exasperate and harden the offender, but if you gently, kindly, and in most cases privately speak to him of his sin, in sorrow and not in anger, he will at least be grateful to you, for he knows that it is a mark of kindness to him. The sorrowful look of a swimming eye has often sent a

deeper reproof to the heart than the most cutting words could have done. Love, love of Christ and love of souls, will always be an infallible guide in such things.

7. Keep eternity in view as constantly as possible. You may be ushered into it in the twinkling of an eye, and therefore, should have it always before you, a radiant light to guide you, a joyous prospect to cheer you, a glorious hope to strengthen you. You will thus be prepared for the summons, let it come as it may, and be ready to enter into the joy of your Lord.

In one word, keep your religion always close to your heart. A soldier in one of our battles, was saved from death by a Testament in his breast pocket which arrested the ball that was aimed at his heart. Had it been in his tent, or his knapsack, or any where but just where it was, lying close to his breast, it could not have saved him. Let the word of Christ rest thus close to your heart, and it will keep it warm, shield it from the fiery missiles of the evil one, cheer and guide it in life, and in death light it joyously through the dark valley.

---

## THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY. S. M.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 With brave but beating heart,<br/>We marched to meet the foe,<br/>Uncertain what should be our<br/>part—<br/>Who should in death lie low.</p> <p>2 We longed the day to win,<br/>And drive the invader back.<br/>Thus we would help a peace to<br/>gain,<br/>The blessing that we seek.</p> <p>2 Thy goodness, Lord, we tell<br/>We bless thy wondrous grace.<br/>While bullets flew, and many fell,<br/>We did not end our race.</p> | <p>4 A victory we have,<br/>Because thou helped us Lord.<br/>Else we'd been covered by the<br/>wave†<br/>And fallen 'neath the sword.</p> <p>5 To thee the praise is due,<br/>To thee our thanks we give.<br/>O help us love and serve thee too,<br/>And to thy glory live.</p> <p>6 And when comes our last fight,<br/>That fight which all must make,<br/>Bring us off conquerors, through<br/>thy might,<br/>For our Redeemer's sake.</p> |
|--|--|

† CXXIV, Psalm, verses 4 and 5.