

witness to what took place between Sergeant Bendrick an' Private Smith, sir. I corroborates his evidence."

"All right; Private Thomas?"

"Sirr! I coboriaties both of them witnesses."

"You corroborate what both witnesses have said?"

"Yessir."

"Now, Smith, what have you got to say? Stand to attention!"

"I ain't got nothin' to say, sir, savin' that I never joined the army to wash dixies, and' I didn't like the tone of voice him"—indicating the orderly Sergeant—"used to me. Also I'm a little deaf, sir, 'an my 'ands is that cut with barbed wire that it's hagnony

to put 'em in boilin' water, sir! An' I'm afraid o' gettin' these 'ere germs into them, sir. Apart from which I ain't got anything to say, sir!"

After this Private Smith assumes the injured air of a martyr, casts his eyes up to heaven, and waits hopefully for dismissal. (The other two similar cases were dismissed this morning!)

The Captain drums his fingers on the table for a few moments. "This is your first offence, Smith."

"Yessir!"

"But it is not made any the less serious by that fact."

The gleam of joy in Smith's eye departs.

"Disobedience of an order is no tri-



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vial matter. A case like this should go before the Commanding Officer."

Long pause, during which the accused passes from the stage of hope



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