

Mr. Moore has asked me to write and heartily thank you in your kindness in sending them. We are so glad to have them for the Reading Room here, it is just the kind of paper we want our dear lads to read! And we thank you not only for your kindness in sending them, but also for the sympathy and love and prayer which we feel has come folded around these 'Sabbath Readings.'

I have mailed to you this week a copy of the second report of this Home, and of the three others in connection with it. And if you will please send me the names and addresses of any you know who would be likely to be interested in work among our British soldiers in India, I shall be so glad at once to forward them copies.

The need of such Homes as these in this dark land are very great. A soldier's life in India is fraught with so many and such grave dangers that centres of help such as this are sadly needed.

I wish with all my heart I could introduce you to the dear mother of this Home, Mrs. Moore. She is indeed the right woman in the right place, and has left the comforts of the home land behind that she may minister to the needs of our British soldiers. Her time and strength and money all laid on the 'altar' that sanctifieth the gift. I need not say she is an earnest Christian, and one who seeks to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. She is an Irish lady, the widow of a Presbyterian minister; her father and grandfather were also in the same ministry and four brothers.

There are just now 15,000 British troops on these hills, some invalided from the heat of Burmah, etc., some from South Africa. This Home stands open all day, and there is in connection with it a good temperance bar, kept by a Christian soldier, where the lads can get a good meal free from the temptations of the terrible drink, which here, as elsewhere, is such a foe alike to the souls and bodies of our dear men.

We do feel as these soldiers come out to take care of us we ought to care for them and lead them to the One who careth for them. There is a bright Gospel meeting held in the little hall, which is next to the Reading Room, every night from 8 to 9, and we do praise God that most of the men come in. We have plenty of singing, the soldiers choosing the hymns themselves before the meeting, and writing them down on the blackboard. Mrs. Moore is helped in these services by Christians living around, and just now (there being many missionaries resting awhile up on these lovely hills from the sultry heat of the plains) we have special help every evening. Then there's a Bible chat from 6.30 to 7.15, and at 10 p.m. a prayer-time, in which our dear Christian lads take part, and one of them reading 'Daily Light.'

We keep 'gun fire' at noon when any of the soldiers are down, as some of our lads belong to the 'S. C. A.' (the Soldiers' Christian Association), and the rule is that those who can shall meet then and read together the daily portion and pray 'one for another.' Mrs. Moore is specially fitted in individual dealing with souls, and has such a bright, winning way with her! She is indeed the 'Soldiers' Friend.' How you would love her if you knew her.

I have been in this dear home for six weeks now. My first experience in soldiers' work. I have been doing stop gap's work here for Mrs. Moore to go down to

the sultry heat of the plains that a worker there might come up here for a month's breath of fresh air. Oh! how interesting the work is and how many opportunities we have of little talks with the boys about their mothers and their homes, and thank God also about the Home which Jesus died to prepare them for. In our Reading Room hangs a printed card with these words: 'When did you write to your Mother? Will you not write now?' and below on the table are pen and ink. This card often helps us to begin a little chat.

Now, dear Friend (for such I feel you to be), I have written at length because I feel you are interested in our work. Please feel at liberty to pass this letter on or make any use of it you like. We do desire that the deep need of work among British soldiers in India should be better known. Please ask any questions: I shall gladly reply to them.

I am a little old woman getting on for 60; I can't do much, so it is a great joy to use my pen for Jesus.

Thanking you again most heartily on behalf of our soldiers for your gift of love. Believe me, yours faithfully,

LITTLE MOTHER.

Soldiers' Home,  
Wellington,  
South India.

### City Homes.

(Rev. Dr. J. H. Edwards, in New York 'Observer'.)

Dr. James W. Alexander once said that it requires an unusual amount of will and grace to live at even a slight degree above the common level of society around. How is it with the homes of professed Christians in the midst of the multitudes of irreligious households found in every city? Are they plainly recognizable as dwelling places of the Lord Jesus? Is the family life fully and truly Christ-ruled if there be no morning or evening prayer in common, no word of thanksgiving at the table daily spread by a kind Providence, no religious reading or conversation from week's beginning to week's end, no parental interest manifested in the salvation and Christian life of the children? A New York pastor seeking to awaken the religious sense of a young man belonging to one of the families in his church, referred to his mother's prayers and the happiness of a united Christian home.

'Why,' he responded, 'I do not know that my mother ever prayed for me. She never said a word to me about religion. I have never had a home. We have always lived in hotels when not travelling. I have crossed the ocean nineteen times. As a family we have never known what home life was.'

Could all attainable wealth, luxury and pleasure compensate for the loss of a mother's prayers, a father's religious care, and a Christian home training? Poor, poor rich young man!

Since the custom of frequent change of abode has become common, many a city family can hardly be said to have a home though never without a fractional dwelling place. Frequently a new apartment is taken every year if not oftener. The city stay is for a lengthened winter. The remainder of the year is spent in the country, at the summer resort, or in travel. There is much to say for this practice on the score of health and the broadening of intelligence and human sympathy. But it is no less adverse to stability and cumulative usefulness. It often works havoc with religious habits and the real family life. Hence comes much of

the church tramp evil. The multiplication of hotels and apartment houses in a neighborhood does not usually tend to strengthen the churches in the neighborhood, but the contrary. Many city Christians carry their religion with them wherever they go, and are a blessing to churches and Sunday-schools which may have their presence for a time; but far more are religious nonentities, or worse, when away from home. If there is real religion in the home it will accompany the Christian tourist in all his goings, and bring forth its fruit in any place or land.

City life with its frequently late or broken hours makes the maintenance of family worship difficult. But so it is always difficult if the purpose and effort to maintain it are feeble. Family altars have been kept burning bright and are still faithfully maintained in cases not a few, in spite of obstacles as great as any which are commonly held to excuse its neglect. The loss of its blessed influence in the home is one reason for the deadening power of present day worldliness in the church. Surely the busiest household might find at least one hour upon the Sabbath when its members could meet together at the throne of grace.

Ideal Christian homes are not wanting amid more varied social conditions in our great cities. The vital strength of the churches comes largely from these abodes of consistent, prayerful and practical piety. Wealth, numbers, popularity, an attractive ritual, eloquent preaching, none of these can supply the place of genuine religion in the home life. Is enough emphasis placed upon this by the pulpit? Ought not Christian people to be jealous of any rival or hostile influences, though from the church itself, which can detract from or damage the Christian home? The first duty of all parents is assuredly to make and maintain such a home. In so doing they are helping the church and aiding the best interests of the community more than is possible in any other way.

### A Plea for Fellowship.

Let us, in imagination, hold a missionary meeting at a mission station, and let us reverse the order of proceedings; instead of talking about China, India, or Madagascar, let a report of Christian life in America be given; let the compiler of the report confine himself to the dark side of American Christianity, and what a report it would be! Hear him as he says, 'In so-called Christian America professing Christians often bite and devour one another; American preachers of the gospel often depreciate one another's talents and services; anonymous writers often insult and wound those who are doing their best to serve the cause of Christ; at many a social board in Christian America men abuse or dishonor their absent brethren; when a brother is overtaken in a fault, he is not seldom left to perish of hunger; when a daring mind ventures to put old truths into new forms, he is sometimes hunted to death as a heretic or driven into the wilderness as an intellectual leper; and this the zealous Christian America which has presumptuously sent her missionaries to destroy your harmless idols and show you how to make civilization the basis of a more refined rebellion against the living God.'

All this the cynical reporter might say, and say, unhappily, with too much truth, though the representation would be one-sided and misleading. We have preached the gospel, but have we loved one another? We have defended the truth in many an argument, but have we loved one another? We have carried our technical legislation to the point of completeness, but have we loved one another?—Rev. Joseph Parker, D.D., in 'The Christian Endeavor World.'

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