

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Private Tucker, who was formerly a member of the staff of our St. John's, Newfoundland, branch, received his death wounds at Gallipoli on 8th October, 1915:

"I do not know if the following will be regarded as interesting from your viewpoint, but it has afforded much satisfaction, and some consolation, and not a little pride to me:—When told by Surgeon-Major Macpherson that he was dying, and asked if he had any message to send to his relatives, he said:

"Tell dad that I would rather be in the condition I am now in, than have failed to fight for my country."

The following letter was written by Private R. Marshall Livingstone, formerly of the Champion staff, to his mother, just before going into action for the last time. Mr. Livingstone was mortally wounded on 27th October, 1917, and died the same day:

"Mother dear, your letters worry me, worry me considerably. It is evident that you do not understand, but I shall put it to you this way: Do you realize that Christ was the first one to fall in the present war? How? Well simply this: The very principles for which Christ gave His life are identically those principles for which Britain is to-day giving her life-blood. It is an old struggle, and Christ Himself was the first martyr to the cause. We are fighting for principles. Right against might. Would the world be worth living in if might and might alone prevailed?

"Therefore, Mother, rather than pray that Harry and I should never be sent to the front, pray that we shall acquit ourselves like men and be strong, for we are on duty primarily for God. Don't feel badly if you hear that we have been specially detailed for dangerous work. Rather look on it as an honour and a special privilege that we should be chosen for special duty in upholding the cause for which Christ laid down His life. If you pray for our return, and only for our return, it is selfishness. Other mothers have been called on to endure greater sacrifices than any we can endure in this war.

"Pray for victory for right; pray that we shall be able to do our duty faithfully, and if we fall in the cause of Christ, remember, mother dear, that 'greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'

"Personally, I don't want to go back except with honour and a clear conscience of having done my duty. Life under any other circumstances after the war would not be worth while."