

[SELECTED]

**The Night before the Battle; or, "What do you want to Find."**

**ONE** night, the night before a terrible battle, two soldiers, united by the ties of friendship, were conversing earnestly together. One of them was an avowed Christian, a soldier of Christ; the other had lived a sinful life, but had been for some time in great anxiety about the salvation of his soul. He had been trying to find peace

in religion, but hitherto he had failed. He went to his friend to open all his heart to him.

"I do not see that there can be any mercy for me," he said.

"Why not mercy for you?" replied his friend.

"Because I cannot find it."

"What do you want to find?" he asked.

"Want to find! Why, I want to find relief; I want to find happiness."

"Ah, that is what you want to find, is it?"

"Yes, it is. What else should I want to find?"

"There is something else," replied the other; "something which surely leads to happiness; and you will never find happiness until you find that. You must find—"

"Find what?"

"You must find Christ. You cannot be happy but as you are pardoned and cleansed from sin through faith in His blood, and washed with the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. And you may, nay, you must, find Christ here and now, for you have no time to lose."

"But how shall I find Him?"

"Believe on Him with all your heart."

"And shall I be saved then?"

"Yes; by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ

you will be saved at once as soon as you trust wholly in Him; and you will pass from death to life. Depend upon it, I tell you the truth. Hear His own words: 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'" John iii. 16.

The young man then returned to his quarters; but just before daylight the friends found themselves together again. They were marching to the field of Battle.

"How do you feel now?" inquired the pious soldier of his friend, as they marched together.

"Oh, I am happy now," he replied.

"Happy! what makes you happy?"

"Oh, I have found Christ! All you told me last night I have found to be true—every word true; I never knew anything like it. I feel sorry and ashamed before God for what I have been, and I have told Him so; and the more I feel His love, the more grieved I am. And yet I am more happy than I can tell."

Thus the young soldier relieved his new found joy to his companion, who listened with glad surprise and heart-felt joy to his testimony of the forgiving love of Christ, and the bright hope that

glowed within his bosom. The dawning light of day shone upon him as a new man, a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

They marched on towards the fatal field, and soon the enemy was in sight; and then came the rush of battle, the roar of cannon, and the whiz of bullets; and early in the day the young convert, struck by a ball, fell dead at the side of his friend.

Do we not see the urgent need there is in the case of all to be reconciled to God?

"Love's redeeming work is done;

Come, and welcome, sinner, come."

**THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 18.**

The wicked like the troubled sea cannot **REST**. Is. lvii. 20.  
Come unto me . . . and I will give you **REST**. Mat. xi. 28.  
Ye shall find **REST** to your soul. Jer. vi. 16.



'Tis **rest**; and not a brief release  
That only comes when tempests cease,  
A transient and uncertain peace:  
Oh, **rest** in the Lord.

Oh, **rest**, not on—but *in*—the Lord:  
Ah! could another human word  
Such sense of restfulness afford,  
As—**rest** in the Lord?

**Rest** in the Lord! His mighty love  
Doth all things rule. below, above:  
Now let thy soul His promise prove,  
And **rest** in the Lord.

We which have believed do enter into **REST**. Heb. iv. 3.  
There remaineth a **REST** for the people of God. Heb. iv. 9.  
There the weary beat **REST**. Job iii. 17.