

Parish and Home.

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YOUR CALL.

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying—
"Who will go and work to-day?
Fields are white, and harvest waiting;
Who will bear the sheaves away?"

Loud and strong the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers thee;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I; send me, send me!"

If you cannot cross the ocean,
And the heathen lands explore,
You can find the heathen nearer,
You can help them at your door.

If you cannot give your thousands,
You can give the widow's mite;
And the least you do for Jesus
Will be precious in his sight.

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say "He died for all."

If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Saviour's waiting arms.

If among the older people
You may not be apt to teach,
"Feed My lambs," said Christ our
Shepherd,
Place the food within their reach.

And it may be that the children
You have led with trembling hand
Will be found among your jewels,
When you reach the better land.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying,
And the Master calls for you.

Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I; send me, send me!"
—D. March, in Northern Messenger.

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

A sermon by the Rev. W. J. Armitage, rector of St. Paul's, Halifax, N.S., and hon. chaplain of 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, from the text II. Tim. ii. 3, "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

He said: The parting church service of our contingent of patriotic Canadians as they leave our shores to fight the battles of the Empire, is one of peculiar solemnity. We are gathered here in the public worship of God, to seek the blessing of the Almighty upon an expedition sent out to further the cause of truth and freedom and higher civilization. Here Canada bids farewell to her sons and wishes them Godspeed, a successful issue and a victorious home-coming.

Press on! the triumph shall be won
Of common rights and equal laws.

Press on! and we who may not share
The toil or glory of your fight
May ask, at least in earnest prayer,
God's blessing on the right!

It is my desire at this time to gather some helpful spiritual lessons from a study of the Christian soldier, which may prove useful in life's great campaign.

Military life in its various forms was very familiar to St. Paul. The Imperial troops were to be found almost everywhere throughout the Roman Empire. The apostle had often watched during the sad days of his imprisonment, when he was bound with a chain to the soldier, the troops on parade, under drill, on the march, on guard; and he had often noted the attention paid to discipline, the care given to the weapons of war, and the provision made in the way of armour and means of defence.

St. Paul's mind, under the inspiration of God, saw at once how wonderfully the life of a soldier illustrates the Christian experience. It is a universal law that all that is worth gaining and keeping must be striven for, from the highest to the lowest endeavors; whether it be the gain of a kingdom or acquisition of any kind, there is demanded effort and conflict.

It is now generally recognized, as some of the best spiritual biographies show, that soldiers, when true men, devoted to the service of Christ, make a very high type of Christians. This is partly due to thoroughness in character. But there are other reasons. Military service demands the exercise of the highest qualities of head and heart, such as discipline, self-control, patient endurance, obedience, self-sacrifice, co-operation with others, loyalty and vigilance. It leads to constant warfare against a foe, or requires constant readiness and careful preparation against attack.

The Christian life cultivates, nourishes, and sustains just such qualities, for it is a constant conflict against evil, in a battle with unnumbered foes, in a campaign which ends only with our mortal life and the last victory over death.

The apostle's metaphor is the good soldier in active service. Every Christian is called to the soldier's life. In the times of Elizabeth every Englishman felt that every man must fight, or England would fall a prey to the Spaniard. So in the Franco-German war, the whole German nation stood in arms, while the call resounded through France summoning young and old to fight for native land. The Christian is enlisted under the banner of the King. All who name the name of Christ, young and old, are called to fight the good fight and wage the good warfare.

The very term, sacrament, which is connected with our highest religious privileges in baptism and the Supper of the Lord, speaks of Christian duties. The word was originally used of the soldier's military oath, and just as Hannibal who learned first to obey, then to command, was taken by his father to swear before the altar of sacrifice eternal enmity to Rome, a vow which he kept, as the Romans confessed, by the destruction of 300,000 men, so we should be the sworn enemies of sin, the consecrated warriors of Christ.

Every soldier should strive to be a good soldier. The development of a high type of man depends on the man himself and upon his leader. Loyalty to his commander has much to do in producing brave and