

PREFACE

soldier, to be amused at the way in which he looked upon his friends in the ranks. It was almost a case of a tigress and her cubs. Yet, in spite of that, when I sent him back some articles in which I thought he went too far in his chastening of the bad or indifferent type of officer, and had given an impression—or shall I say was in danger of giving an impression?—which would have been unfair to our officers as a whole, he took my point at once and generously and openly admitted that he was wrong. The result was the admirable article on “The Good Side of ‘Militarism’ ”—published on September 2—which was perhaps one of the best things he ever wrote.

Only ten or twelve days ago, and so only a few days before his death, he returned me a proof of the article on the soldier's attitude towards religion, “Don't Worry.” Surely a nobler sermon was never preached. Read in the light of his death on the Somme, every word has a special meaning. It is a personal message. In his letter to me he spoke of the pleasure which he felt in going back to the trenches, and the opportunity he would have, as he said, of testing once more in practice his