

commanders, and were able to hold their own for several years against all the forces of the North. The struggle was a desperate one; both parties suffered severely, thousands of valuable lives having been sacrificed as victims to the base passions of those who precipitated the war. The trade and commerce of both North and South were almost paralysed; the ranks of the army were thinning; men were becoming scarce, and were procurable only at a premium. But the North, having the most resources, was able and determined to continue the war until the South was entirely subdued.

In the morning, Edward Cunningham was taken to the enlistment office, where he was sworn to serve in the United States army for a term of years. He was now once more a soldier, and had to put up with the many discomforts of a soldier's life, which, in time of war, are almost unbearable. But Cunningham was of an irritable disposition, and could not mildly submit as others could do. It was, therefore, little wonder that one morning he gave audible expression to his irritability, as follows:

"I'll not stand this treatment long. I've been entrapped into this business, and I'll quit the Yankees at the first chance."

This determination was, of course, decidedly wrong. When a man takes an oath to fight for a country, in a good cause, he should never think of desertion. It is only the untruthful, the unreliable, and the coward who would do that! A true, brave, Christian man would never desert the flag he had sworn to defend!

In a short time, Cunningham, along with a number of other recruits, was despatched by train for the seat of war, which was in Petersburg, Virginia, where the two armies were confronting each other. Here during a few weeks some severe and dangerous picket duty was performed, Cunningham sustaining his part with credit, and to the satisfaction of his officers.