

## III. THE SOLDIER'S END (v. 5).

There cannot be war without some losses, and frequently it is the young who fall first, while others go unscathed through many campaigns; and we seem only too often to have to mourn the death of bright and promising young Christians. Yet when we think of any British victory, while we applaud the returning heroes we do not forget those who will return no more; for the victory would not have been achieved without them. And as the Church moves on towards its final triumph, we cannot forget those whose life and service was only short: they have fallen before the victory is won, but they have contributed towards it. And God does not forget them, for our King who guards us in the field can be near His soldiers at the end; and however prematurely death may come to them, it is not without the consolations He can give.

Now, as the stories of the death of Nelson and of Wolfe remind us, the greatest consolation to a dying warrior is the assurance that his side is winning the day: knowing that, he can die content. To every one of us death will come

before the final triumph of Christ's cause, but by the grace of God we may die comforted with the assurance of coming victory, with faith unshaken, never doubting right will win; and with that assurance the true soldier of Christ can die in peace. As Wordsworth puts it, he who

must fall, to sleep without his fame,  
And leave a dead, unprofitable name—  
Finds comfort in himself and in his cause;  
And while the mortal mist is gathering,  
draws  
His breath in confidence of Heaven's  
applause.

—The Happy Warrior.

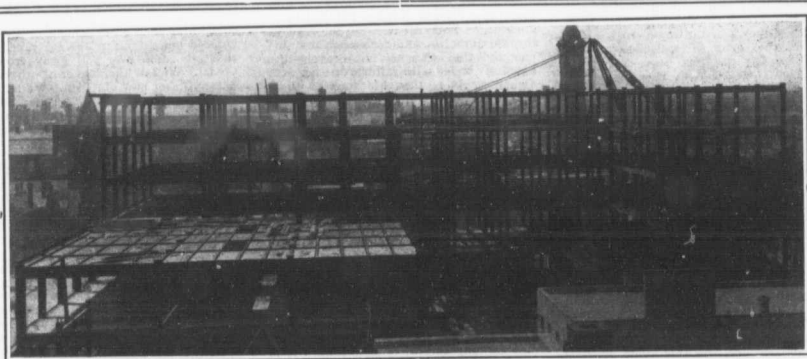
This is the "comfort" for which we pray in the last verse of the hymn.

### Making Friends

Making friends is one of the most important things in life. Few things will make or mar a life like the character of its friends. We want to begin early on this art, and as we find persons of the

right quality we should bind them to us with "hooks of steel." In Stanley's Life of Arnold there is a passage from one of Coleridge's letters bearing on this: "Far beyond all the wealth or honors which may reward his labor, far even beyond the unspeakable gift of bodily health, are the friendships which a man forms in his youth."

Our historical and religious traditions place great emphasis on true friendship. In Scripture the word is frequently used, and the nature of a true friend is set forth by precept and example. There is that pure and pathetic friendship of David and Jonathan standing out in Hebrew literature as something unique. "Wealth," says the wise man, "addeth many friends: but the poor is separated from his friend." The meaning here given is that those who would have friends must contribute something towards friendship—wealth of affection, thought, consideration, and so on. The "poor man" is the sponge who is looking for favors, who wants to receive rather than give. Friendship, to sum up, must be founded on virtue, mutual respect, reverence, confidence, and mutual service.



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