

The Army of Soldiers

EVERY army must have its proper proportion of soldiers of all arms—infantry, cavalry, artillery, and engineers—and requires not only soldiers fitted to enter into the battle, but a fair proportion of non-combatants who discharge important duties in connection with the commissariat, its hospitals, and various other departments. These are all of equal importance, although the work done by them may be widely different in character. The importance of each branch of the service is known to the General in command, who does not despise one of them, though there may be individual officers and soldiers under him who may be foolish enough to look down upon those who are quite as useful as themselves. In the great army of Christian soldiers, enlisted to carry on warfare against sin and Satan, it is sad to find not a few of those actually engaged in the good fight looking down upon others who should be esteemed as valuable allies. It is sadder still to see how those who are thus despised repay this contempt with open hostility, and thrust aside those who desire to set them at one again. The lesson to be learnt by both parties is the great one taught of old, "Sirs, ye are brethren."

The Good, Great, and Chief Shepherd.

AS the *good* Shepherd, the blessed Lord *died* for His sheep. "I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. . . . As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep. . . . I give unto My sheep eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand" (John 10).

As the *great* Shepherd, He *rises* from the dead to watch over with tender care, and to fold in His everlasting embrace, the flock for which He died. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13).

As the *chief* Shepherd, He *will gather* around Himself on the bright and sunny fields of eternal glory all His under-shepherds, and place upon their heads a crown of glory, as the answer of His love for their care of His sheep and lambs. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 5).

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters."—Psalm 23: 1, 2.

Sin.

SIN is the greatest evil in all the world; 'tis the only thing that God abhors, and that brought Jesus Christ to the cross, that damns souls, that shuts heaven, and that has laid the foundation of hell."

THERE is no sin a man can be tempted to, but he will find greater comfort in resisting than in indulging. Then a man shews himself to be a Christian, when he chooses rather to suffer than sin. By suffering he avoids sorrowing; but by sorrowing he cannot avoid suffering. Get these principles into your hearts; there is nothing gained by sin, nor lost by holiness."

THERE is no harder work in the world than sin."

ITHUS preach and thus work, that it is more bitter to sin against Christ, than to suffer the torments of hell."

THOSE who give themselves up to the service of sin, enter the palace of pleasure by wide portals of marble, which conceal the low wicket, behind which leads into the fields, where they are in a short time sent to feed swine."

IF I grapple with sin in my own strength, the devil knows he may go to sleep."

"The wages of SIN is DEATH; but the GIFT of God is ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Rom. 6: 23.

Trust.

WHO SHALL WE TRUST?

GOD alone! "It is better to trust in God, than to put confidence in princes." Psalm 118: 9. "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him." Psalm 62: 5.

HOW SHALL WE TRUST?

ENTIRELY! "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thine own understanding." Prov. 3: 5

WHEN SHALL WE TRUST?

NOW and ALWAYS! "Trust in Him at all times," Psalm 62: 8. "All the day and every day God loves to be trusted."

WHY SHOULD WE TRUST?

"Trust ye in the Lord Jehovah, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Oh, let us trust Him utterly, for His Love and Power never fail!