

ward, and from hospital to hospital. Besides the diminution in the number of patients does not serve to diminish the number of public services, while the smallness of each audience has a tendency to depress the spirit and weaken the energy of the preacher. So that on every account I trust that no long time will elapse without bringing some fellow-labourer to this field.

28th.—In the course of visiting to-day saw Sergeant A. in the General Hospital, and had some conversation with him. He has before now given me some details of his history. By his own account his father was a pious man, and very strict disciplinarian. The son found it necessary to submit, but did so with a bad grace. At last, taking offence at some act of his father's, he ran away and enlisted. Some time after this his father purchased his discharge, though the son told him he might save himself the trouble, as he would probably enlist again. And so he did, and does not entertain the least feeling of regret or remorse. He will coolly tell you he never expects to regain his health, or to revisit his native country. He has no faith in the righteousness of the part Britain is acting in the present war, and yet would rush with all his might against the thick of the enemy. He professes to think it too late for him to repent and amend, and is content to take his chance with others. I expressed my sorrow for his unhappy position, but fancy he thought I might as well have spared my pains. I had before left a copy of "Alleine's Alarm" with him, and entreated him again to read it.

I have often thought that such unhappy cases might serve as a warning to parents. There are, no doubt, instances in which the best discipline is defeated in its aims. But it is a not unfrequent error in training to treat only as a matter of duty what should spring from a principle of love, and to make that instruction a task which might be rendered in a great degree a pleasure. That parent comes nearest to training up his child in the way he should go who resembles most our Father in Heaven; and in His government righteousness and peace meet together, mercy and truth embrace each other.

This evening received box containing, among other things, a very neat communion cup, "From a few of my late flock in Gourcock, for the use of their countrymen in the East." It is a very handsome and appropriate gift, and I hope soon to be able to put it to use. The box also contained a most suitable collection of books and tracts for the use of the sick and wounded, the gift of the Sabbath School connected with my late congregation in the same place, which I shall have peculiar pleasure in putting into the hands of the men in hospital.

29th.—Spent an hour or so in the Barrack Hospital, and saw most of the men who are confined to bed. Engaged afterwards in writing out Journal, and letters for Monday's mail, and in making preparations for duties of to-morrow.

30th.—Sunday. No service this morning in Barracks, the men having been marched out for inspection. The usual services in the Palace, Barrack, and General Hospitals. At the conclusion of the sermon in the Barrack Hospital administered the ordinance of baptism to the child of a serjeant who had applied to me for this on the previous Sabbath. About 30 men present, and, from the extreme rarity of the dispensation of this ordinance in such circumstances, it is to be hoped that the impression made upon them was salutary and solemnizing.—*Edinb. Christ. Mag. for April.*

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