

Churches have the same trend towards deterioration exhibited by the earliest church organization, their only salvation, and that necessarily in part only, being the frequent rise of additional church organizations.

Therefore it is that we affirm that the regeneration of the world from its sin taint cannot be the outcome of any one or all of these organizations combined, but must be the preaching of the kingdom of Heaven according to the simple teaching of its great Founder. Let this be done, and all organizations and dogmas be put in their real, that is, secondary place, and you have the beginning of the end of the regeneration of the soul and body of the individual and of the masses.

(OPEN LETTER.)

WOODSTOCK, June 1st, 1892.

D. M. REES,

*S. A. Commissioner.*

DEAR SIR,—In your valedictory letter to officers, soldiers and friends (I come under this latter head), you say that you "feel quite confident" that the general is "guided by God" in withdrawing you from Canada; that you are "under the direction of the general," and that, "as a result," you will always be placed where you will be of the most use to the war, or, in other words, to the "kingdom of God."

You will admit, with me, that the Salvation Army has lost, in many directions, its old-time power. While the Editor of the *War Cry* may assert, as he does in this number containing your farewell letter, that the Salvation Army is guilty of "change," but, "of the decay part of the business," it is "certainly not guilty;" and while he may go on and assert that "for life, power, vivacity and strength," you rank "first" amongst the sects, still this is a mere matter of opinion. Assertions count for nothing when not backed up with hard dry facts. The Salvation Army, like all other organizations, started right, but as time rolled on, just like the Lord's followers, both before and after Pentecost,

wherever there was work done that was not according to the "will of God," backsliding and decay inevitably followed.

Why should not all your work be according to the mind of God? Why should there be any "dead works" to decay or be burnt up? Is there any era of the past that stands out pre-eminently above the rest of time, in this particular, that the followers of God "DID the whole will of God?"

Mark! you don't say you "do the will." You don't say that the general "does the will." You only say you "FEEL" that the general does it. Feelings are deceptive. And then, anyway, one cannot get guidance for another, or know what another's relation to God is. I state as I have stated before, that the relation that exists in the Salvation Army between the soldier and his captain, between a captain and his divisional officer, the divisional officer and yourself, as commissioner, and between commissioner and the general is the same as exists between the followers of Rome and the Pope. Instead of God directing the individual, the individual gets his direction from another, as in this case you have done, "feeling" that the general is directed of God. What if the general in your case should not be directed of God? Would any of the consequences of his acting without God's explicit direction fall upon you?

Have you ever heard the general state that he was "recklessly abandoned to God" in this matter of guidance, which you have seen fit to introduce into your valedictory letter? Are you recklessly abandoned yourself? Is it one of the cardinal principles of the Salvation Army teaching, to teach the devotees at its shrine "divine guidance?" If so, give the page or pages in your "Doctrines and Discipline."

Suppose God asked you to take your place as an humble soldier in some village in Canada, to lay aside your commissioner's trappings, to drop your emoluments, if you have any, would you gladly obey? Or would you be found, as hosts of the Army devotees have been found, at just such a stage in their experience as this, introducing a