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inhibited priest, s: is given by the Liverpool, was re- lic worship, when Rev. W. Watson. both occasions, and it was evident rchwarden Bailey measure rewarded, idolatry had been n Commandments ducted as in the air, and every act ional, even to the e mine. W.C.T.

urchman.

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laus are insepar- children, whether o say that the 32 ren were no ex- eks kind friends for the children, suspended from. uitage until the self was one of s soon as it was of convalescents, children, were un- parcel lying upon en opened, was card, a small stmas letter, the n. Parents and iving in charge them under the d for those who epared, so that on the birthday

One band of Sabbath School children at M—, another at O—, and many children both in the city and at a distance, had sent toys and books from their own treasured stores, and these materially helped the committee in arranging gifts for each one.

The Christmas dinner was an event. It was contributed, prepared, and served by Miss B— and a few of her young lady friends. For three successive years Miss B— has visited the Hospital on Christmas day for the purpose of preparing and giving to the children a Christmas dinner. The well boys and girls who read the EVANGELICAL CHURCHMAN will be glad to know that many of the patients were able to sit down at the tables, which were spread in the wards, and but few were sufficiently ill to be denied the pleasure of partaking at least sparingly of the good cheer provided for them.

The afternoon was enlivened with games and sports, intermingled with many earnest talks about the babe, born so many hundred years ago in Bethlehem, who came to save us from sin, and who, when he grew to be a man, loved children, saying to them so tenderly, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

But although Christmas had been so pleasant, much anxiety was expressed about the quick arrival of Thursday; there were many nods, and whisperings in quick corners, and wee hearts were full, almost to bursting, with anticipations concerning the mysterious tree and its fruit-laden branches. At last Thursday afternoon came, and all the preparations were complete. A little daughter of Mr. H— personated the fairy sprite, whose pleasing duty it was to dispense the gifts, and as with fleet step (greatly assisted by a pair of silver wings, which sprung from her shoulders), she passed from bed to bed, untying with nimble fingers very suggestive parcels, and was greeted with little shrieks of surprise and delight, the onlooker of mature years was reminded of days long since gone. The Hospital Christmas-tree was a wonderful one. Old St. Nicholas (in the person of Miss M—, the ever kind friend of the children) had evidently been in a generous frame of mind, when he drew rein at the Hospital door; perhaps the desire was to compensate in some way these sufferers, for days and nights of sleeplessness and pain, or perhaps the graceful fairy who distributed the gifts possessed the power of transforming with the wondrous wand, evergreen twigs into books, dolls, horses, balls, etc. At any rate, it seemed as though the tree would never be stripped of its delightful fruit, and each child received, not one, but many presents.

Generous boys and girls will be glad to know that several of these sick children have already given to poor brothers and sisters at home who, through poverty or the vice of parents, were without a Christmas gift, one or more from their full store.

The writer passed through the wards about an hour after the tree had been dismantled, and the tour was at once amusing and saddening. One convalescent boy was spinning three tops, all at once; for three bedridden chaps, while a little girl of weak intellect was hugging in her arms, and cooing softly to it, a big, blue-eyed dolly. Young B—, a stirring lad, had dexterously taken apart his "jumping jack," that he might "find the jump," and in an adjoining bed another lad was preparing to follow his example, and dissect his kaleidoscope, in order that he might "see what made the see." As we looked in at the small girls' ward, we were surprised to find all dear little Maggie's presents untouched on the table, and the child lying quietly with her face to the wall; stooping over her with questioning look, the dark eyes were raised for an instant, and to our mute appeal, the quiet, patient answer came,—"Only a nuzzer abcess." As we turned to go out, we met the good matron, Miss F—, with a huge basket on her arm, gathering up the bags of candy, which were to be placed in the care of the nurses, and dispensed daily with a view to the physical state of each patient.

Sometimes death comes to the Hospital for Sick Children. A few weeks ago little Ettie was taken, but she was quite ready and willing to go, and we know that she is keeping a long, long, happy Christmas in the heavenly land, and that she will ever be with Jesus.

But, we must not forget to mention the gift a sweet young girl in Nova Scotia sent to the Hospital before she died. She had read about it in a Sunday School paper, and when she knew that she could not live long, she desired her mother to give all her little fortune, the sum of one hundred dollars, to this and another institution, fifty dollars for each. The ladies who have charge of the Hospital have decided to take some poor neglected, sick child, and care for it, with this precious gift, as this amount will keep a cot in the Hospital for at least six months.

And now we must close this little history, wishing our readers a bright New Year, and hoping that they may always have hearts full of tenderness and sympathy for the sick and afflicted. "I was sick and ye visited me."

L. J. H.

#### THE SALVATION ARMY.

We gladly give publicity to the following letter upon a topic about which many enquiries are made.—EDS. E.C.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your kind note I received in due course. I have had so many enquiries with regard to the work of the Salvation Army since I was present at their meeting on the first of the year that when I received your letter I made up my mind that I would give you a full account of my visit. Since the Salvation Army has been here I have in my humble work in St. John's Ward met with many practical instances of the good they are accomplishing, and this, altogether aside from any feeling I might have about the work, convinced me that the result of their labor was good. In visiting them therefore I certainly did not go prejudiced against them, at the same time I did not expect to be gratified with the methods with which they conducted their meetings. I do not say now that old-fashioned people, like you and I, would feel satisfied to give up our own ways or religious habits for theirs, for my part I could not, but I do say this that I was very agreeably surprised, though many things were strange, to find that in the working of the meetings the effect was not in any way disagreeable or unpleasant. The reporting in cold blood what is done, in great warmth and earnestness, by people thoroughly in earnest undoubtedly causes an impression which the circumstances themselves would not justify. The night that I was there was a sort of rallying night. There were present delegates from different parts of the country, among other places, Hamilton, Lindsay and Barrie. The conductor of the meeting was the Major, as I understood, in command in this country, a man of good presence and address. I was not present at the opening of the meeting but I understood that it was opened in a formal way with prayer and reading of the Word. The building was plain to a degree, and accommodated when I was there probably very close on to 2,000 people; and when I tell you that every inch of the standing room was taken up and remained closely occupied by a most attentive and interested audience until after 11 o'clock, you will get an idea of the interest in the proceedings. All classes seemed to be represented and there was evidently a very large representation of what I recognized from my own mission work experience as being the non-church attending class. The proceedings were varied, the singing was a very prominent feature and was generally in the shape of a solo sung with great earnestness by some member of the Army and the accompanying chorus by a hundred voices well trained and practised on the platform; the effect was admirable. The addresses were all short and to the point and consisted of simple earnest appeals to those present to seek the Saviour. The main feature of the meeting, however, was in "the witnessing;" one after the other stood up, men and women who simply and clearly and in very few words announced what God had done for them. "The witnessing" generally commenced by stating that God's spirit had convinced them of sin and had showed them there was pardon in the blood of Jesus Christ, and that the blood of Christ had washed them from all sin and that they were saved. The effect of these announcements was evidently great, they were listened to with great attention; and who could not but feel interested as earnest men and women one after the other declared these things? The statements by the men were generally plain and frank confessions of sin in their former lives, while they rejoiced in their escape and deliverance from the power of sin. Each "witnessing" was closed by a simultaneous Amen with wonderful strength of lungs from all the Army, the effect being not at all unpleasant and very impressive. The Hallelujahs were of a most cheerful and joyous character. As I said before, there was nothing in all that was said which would produce an unpleasant feeling or savoured of coarseness. There was no attempt at sermonising, in fact the Major in his address stated that they did not believe in preaching sermons, as all they do is to tell how the Lord saved them, and to try and attract others to the same source of light and strength.

He related one instance of a lady Captain who, leaving some station where she had been greatly blessed, had taken for the subject of a farewell address "Zaccheus" and had given something like a fortnight to its preparation, but when she came to deliver her address, and got as far as the point where Zaccheus climbed the tree, she utterly broke down, and, sarcastically added the Major, remained up the tree with Zaccheus. After this experience she made up her mind that she would not sermonise any more.

At the close of the addresses and "witnessing," which took up over two hours and a half, during which time by the closest and most interested attention was given by the whole audience, the invitation was given to all

who desired to find the Saviour and who repented of their sins to come to the penitent bench. This invitation was accepted by a very considerable number, among whom were several lads from nineteen to twenty years old, of a very rough appearance, who showed by every action the deep desire they had for a better life. In speaking to one of them after he had risen from his knees, I asked him if he had found the Saviour. "Yes," he said, and if a bright face is any index to that fact he certainly had. There was also another young man, who seemed to have considerable difficulty in receiving the truth; after he had risen, I asked how often he had come to the meetings? He said it was his third visit, and in talking further, I asked if he felt he was saved. He said "Yes, I feel that I am safe," at which I could not but rejoice, as I knew well what being safe meant to a lad of his age and of his class. About the most marked case in the evening was that of a man of very coarse appearance, and one who, judging from his appearance, had passed a great part of his life under influences of a very degrading character. He came up in great distress of mind, and seemed to be earnestly seeking the Saviour, but his remorse and anxiety were so great that he fell down on the ground and was evidently in dreadful distress, crying out that he had been a very bad man and asking God to have mercy on him. I was wonderfully moved with the character of the prayers that were offered around this poor fellow, the utter abandon and earnestness, the appropriate and simple language, the perfect trust in the power of God and in His promises of salvation through Christ; also the simple power of the hymns that were sung made a deep impression on me. Among others, I may mention the hymn "Just as I am without one plea," sung to the tune we ordinarily hear it, to which was added a wonderful chorus, which in the way it was rendered was really an explanatory teaching in itself, and must have been to those in distress of mind seeking peace, wonderfully drawing.

(Chorus)

Oh Calvary, dark Calvary,  
Where Jesus shed his blood for me;  
Oh Calvary, dark Calvary,  
Speak to my heart from Calvary.

After this, I should think they were around this poor man praying and singing for half an hour, and when we left he was on his knees praying like a child. I can clearly see that the power of the work is not in what some people consider to be the meretricious things connected with it, the use of drums, uniforms or instruments, but in the plain simple "witnessing" for Christ. This was clearly evident. As every one that stood up gave their simple evidence you could see how the eyes of the audience were bent on them, and I am certain that the method itself must be of great practical value.

I saw many in the audience agitated apparently by a strong desire for salvation, and I am quite satisfied that the evidence of these witnesses to the forgiveness of their sins, and their confident and happy statement that they were saved by the blood of the Lamb gave a marvellous encouragement to many troubled souls. I am sure God is in this work in all its plainness and simplicity, though there is no claim laid to teaching, in fact the majority of those I heard were by no means well instructed Christians. Their ideas were bounded to a large extent by the Salvation Army, they believed the Salvation Army was the method by which the world is to be evangelized, and, as in like all earnest movements, the very intensity probably produces a certain measure of narrowness all through it. But the honor given to the work of the Holy Spirit and the simple faith in the power and willingness of the Lord Jesus to save, are in themselves a most practical and glorious theology. I was thoroughly convinced that these people are servants of God and that He is sending them out, even as His servants in the parable were sent out, to fetch in all to the great supper, going out into the streets and lanes of the cities and into the highways and hedges compelling men to come in.

The Salvation Army work is a work of the whole Church, and I believe their march is by order of the same great Captain who left us this, His last great command—"Go ye into ALL the world and preach the gospel to EVERY creature."

Very truly yours,

W. H. HOWLAND.

To the Rev. Dr. H.—  
Rector of—

Many seem to think that to be a believer is to have certain feelings and experiences, forgetting all the time that these are but the flowers, and that the fruit must follow.—  
M. Cheyne.