

and blessing of God, and the good soldier that falls in the battle field, is like the priest struck dead when ministering at the altar—both are in the place of duty, and the place of duty is always in the ways of God. Other lands have their defence in the number and courage of their armies, and shall this young Country of ours have no walls of fire round about it? Is there nothing precious or dear to be here defended? I need not ask you—I know your reply.

It is another property of a soldier, to be able to commit his cause cheerfully to God, that fearing God, he may have no other fear. His spiritual life may grow in conjunction with his duties—not that he needs to be a monk, but still, in the exercise of his religious duties, he may have cause to expect that he is approved of, by the All Seeing Eye of his Heavenly Father. Be loyal, be obedient, be courageous and God fearing. Suppress all feelings of private animosity, and abstain from all private quarrels. Be temperate too—“He that striveth for the mastery must be temperate in all things.” And thus, if called upon in the course of Providence to struggle and contend and encounter dangers in your country’s cause, may you have faith to believe, that the grace and strength of God will not be withdrawn from you, but supplied abundantly in the day of trial, if such a trial should come, enabling you to endure hardship as good Soldiers of Christ.

Let us hope, nevertheless, that the gracious goodness of God may put to sleep all the elements of strife, and silence the sullen murmurs of the dread calamity of war. Grant us, O Heavenly Father, grant us peace—that peace which the blessed Angels sang rejoicing, when the new born Saviour first visited the children of men. It has happened to us this Christmas Day, that our cup of joy is mingled, not only with bitterness arising from the prospect of a great calamity, but with the sorrowful intelligence of the death of the Prince