

## CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS—REPLY TO M.

To the Editor of the Record.

QUEBEC, 7th July, 1852.

SIR,—

As an Officer of the British Army, and, as I humbly trust, also a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, I cannot but regret the insertion, in your number for June, of some remarks on the late Colonel Fordyce and christian soldiers generally; such remarks tending, as I conceive, to cast stumbling-blocks in the way of the weaker brethren in the army, and to lower our christian character in the eye of the Church of God. The writer, with truth, says, that the *Christian* contemplating with complacency the din of battle and all the other horrors of war, is an anomaly nowhere to be found, &c.—but (speaking of the late Col. F. and christian soldiers) adds—“deceived by a false glow of national honor, which time and custom have rendered attractive and grand, such men are led to engage in war, to consecrate those bright and glorious talents to the work of destruction, to hurl millions of impenitent, unpardoned sinners, into eternity,” &c. &c. Now, sir, if I know anything of the feelings and sentiments of the Christian Officers of the British Army, I believe they abhor war as much as other christian men, nor have they any desire to engage in it with a view of gaining glory to themselves. Though belonging to a profession of arms they desire to be always at peace, but they do not see anything in the word of God forbidding them to enlist under the banners of their earthly Sovereign; on the contrary, would infer from many passages which might be quoted, that it is a lawful profession, recognised as such by God himself. Since the writer admits that defensive war is lawful, I would ask, where is the difference of defending the homes of our countrymen in a colony, and that of meeting an enemy in the land of Britain itself? Was not the late Colonel Fordyce as much engaged in defending the colonist's home at the Cape, as if he had been protecting his native town? Can it be doubted for a moment, that had the Government of Great Britain not sent a very considerable force to the Cape, and had not that force been led by such commanders as the late Colonel Fordyce, the treacherous and murderous Caffres would have long since exterminated the white man from the land? Besides, I conceive that neither Officers nor Soldiers can be held responsible for the character of the war—that must rest with the rulers and the powers that be, who will have to give an account thereof to God. I do not hesitate to say, that I never wish to see war in any shape, but if called upon by my Sovereign to proceed to any part of the world to engage therein, I should feel it my duty to go; leaving the result of the struggle, as well as the justness of the case, to God, fully trusting that He would be my defence and counsellor in the field of battle as in the home of peace. Permit me to add, that the writer is not very consistent—for whilst he rejoices that there are such men as the late Col. Fordyce—who, by their redeeming influence, rescue, in some degree, the British army from the charge of utter ungodliness—he, at the same time, asserts that the gallant Colonel entirely mistook his profession, and hence we may infer that he thinks the same of all christian soldiers; and I would ask, then, what would become of the British army if all christian men left, the salt being then wholly withdrawn?

It will, I believe, generally be found, in the case of both Christian Officers and Men—that when they first entered the service, they were strangers to the things of God, and that the Lord had since sought them out and brought them to the feet of Jesus. Perhaps the reason why the Lord acts thus is, to shew that He will have His people in the army as in other professions, in order to carry out His own purposes; for I do not think that many men, as *Christians*, would choose the army. If this be true, ought Christian men

to leave the position which God has appointed them, unless they can very clearly discern the hand of the Lord marking out another path of duty, in which they may be enabled, by Him, to bring more glory to His name?

Trusting you will insert these remarks in your next number, I remain

Your obedient servant,

H. C. STACE,

Captain, Royal Artillery.

Saugeen, 25th May, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—According to request, on your part, and promise on mine, I now send you a few lines, letting you know something of this new, but interesting place, in which I have been located for a season. After a very pleasant sail from Buffalo, we reached this place in health and safety, on the 11th instant. We do not require to travel very far, either by land or water, in order to experience special tokens of God's preserving care and kindness. While going into Port Stanley harbor on a very dark night, a considerable portion of one of the paddles of our steamer was severely injured, which caused a delay of nearly two days. Had it been stormy, the loss of the vessel might have been the result. I regret, however, to add, that, only four days after we left her, she ran upon a rocky reef, above thirty miles from Owen's Sound. No one was lost, but it is feared that the vessel will be a wreck.

Our village (Southampton) is quite a new place: it only rose into existence last summer, and already it numbers about thirty houses. It is very pleasantly situated at the mouth of the Saugeen, (an Indian name, denoting the entrance, or mouth of a river,) and on the banks of the great Huron. Nearly opposite the village, and about a mile from it, lies Chantry Island, which has a very picturesque appearance, and affords a fine relief to the eye, while gazing abroad on the vast expanse of Lake Huron. At this place, from our shore to the American, the lake is seventy miles wide. Though but a village at present, Southampton is laid out for a large town, and, judging from its situation, and other advantages connected with it, this contemplated design may be speedily realized. Many town and park lots have already been taken up, and some excellent frame houses are being erected thereon. The streets are regular, and wide: some of them have been opened. Several large reserves (not Clergy Reserves) have been laid off, for churches, schools, market-buildings, court house, a cemetery, and other public institutions. There are already three well-filled stores; and, even now, the inhabitants have the privilege of a weekly mail despatch and arrival. The soil of the township and surrounding country is said to be of excellent quality. Many facilities for public works are to be found along the margin of the river, and on the many streams and rivulets which flow through the beautiful ravines which are everywhere to be seen. The land, generally speaking, being high and dry, renders the climate very pleasant and healthy. Roads are being laid off, and preparations made for forming the same; and a large and convenient harbour is contemplated.

At present, a few inconveniences, arising from the situation and circumstances of the place, are of course to be expected and experienced. The goodness of the God of Providence, however, is strikingly exhibited, from day to day, in the fresh and bountiful supplies, which both River and Lake afford of their treasures, for our daily-returning wants. These few thoughts, my dear Sir, have been impressed upon my mind, while, as an impartial observer, I have attended to other objects, in this beautiful and interesting locality.

I now hasten on to add a few words respecting other topics; in which both you and I, and others, are more specially interested. I was particularly pleased, upon landing, to find that the presbyterians of this place had erected a neat and commodious place of worship, which was receiving the last touches of the tools of the mechanic, on

the day of our arrival. On Sabbath, the 16th inst., it was opened for the worship, and dedicated to the service of our God and Maker. I was kindly assisted, on that occasion, by the Rev. Mr. Hutchison, Methodist Missionary to a company of Chippewa Indians, residing about three miles from this place; and by the Rev. Mr. Krebs, of the Congregational Church Mission, Colpoys Bay. The attendance was highly gratifying, and the collection too. I rejoice to say, that the Church has been opened almost free of debt. Last Sabbath, we had two diets, which were well attended; on which occasion, also, our regular collection shewed the liberality of the people. On the morning of that day we opened a Sabbath School, when several teachers and twenty-four children commenced their interesting labours. I am happy to say that Alex McNabb, Esq., who has done much for this place, has kindly undertaken the superintendence of the school. To-morrow evening, I propose opening a Bible Class, where I hope to meet with several young people. I have managed to give a service, every third Sabbath, at a station in the country. Though there are no horses, or means of conveyance here, yet, I was glad to notice some in Church, who walked through the bush eight and ten miles. I cannot conclude, dear Sir, without recalling to your, and my own remembrance, the urgent necessity there is for earnest supplication at the Throne of Grace, for the blessing of the Most High, in order to render salutary the feeble efforts which we put forth, for the advancement of His cause and kingdom. And, how cheering and encouraging is the thought, that His promises are full and gracious, and all—yea, and amen—in Christ Jesus. We have not, because we ask not. Lord, increase our faith. Bless the work of our hands upon us: yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.

I am, most sincerely,

Yours,

A. C.

The foregoing letter was unavoidably excluded from last *Record*, by the press of other matter. Although of old date, it is still interesting. We learn, by a subsequent communication from Saugeen, that things are progressing favourably.—The Missionary is acceptable to the people, indefatigable in his labours, and cheered on by increasing attention to the means of grace. The prospects of the Sabbath School are particularly encouraging. The teachers are anxious to procure a library for it. Some young friends made a present of crimson furnishings for the pulpit. A bell is still wanted for the Church. A gentleman, writing from that place, says, “A steam-boat bell would suit us, in the meantime. Any one that would part with one, at small cost, or what is better, present it to us, would confer a boon.”

## VIEWS OF GODERICH.

“For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.”—*Isaiah 62nd, 1st v.*

A greater than the prophet, in the 62nd of Isaiah, manifests His intense anxiety for the salvation of Jew and Gentile. How unwearied His intercession, at the right hand of God the Father! “Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before him!” May the same mind be in us, whether we think of the interest of town or country.

We have hitherto refrained from making observations on our own County Town, or on “our own broad lake,” but would now submit a few. Goderich is the capital of the Counties of Huron and Bruce, Perth having Stratford for its County