

good, sincere, God fearing men, whom I knew to be noble defenders of their country, and noble soldiers of the cross, who were my attentive and anxious hearers there; with whom I enjoyed many a sweet and profitable conversation, and with whom I hope to meet again, not in this weary world of toil and trouble and unrest, but in those mansions of bliss above, where we shall find an end to all the toils and vexations and fatigues of our way, and where "the weary be at rest."

Much good heaven, I found, has been diffused throughout the army by the unceasing labors and the unminged exertions of good, tender-hearted and pious ladies, many of whom devote their whole lives to the spiritual welfare of our soldiers. Often on going round the wards, have I found some of my men with bright and happy countenances, reading letters; and on enquiry I have found that they were from one or other of those kind-hearted ladies whom they had met with at other stations, and who had written to them words of comfort, expressing sympathy with them, bidding them be happy and cheerful under all their trials and sufferings, and to put their whole trust and confidence in their Heavenly Father, and all would yet turn out for their good. It is wonderful what lasting benefit can be done in that way, and how very much is even now being done by these kind, tender-hearted christian ladies. With perhaps one exception, there is no lady who takes more interest in our poor soldiers than our good and noble Queen herself. The exception to whom I allude is the soldier's friend, I might almost say the soldier's angel, Florence Nightingale; for in the eyes of those poor sick and wounded soldiers who went through all the horrors of the Crimean war, and experienced the soothing attentions and kindly ministrations of that tender-hearted woman in the Hospital at Scutari, Florence Nightingale was looked upon more as an angel—a ministering angel from heaven—than a human being. Though upwards of twenty years have elapsed since that terrible war was waged, she has not yet recovered from the effects of her almost superhuman efforts in ministering to the ease and comfort of the poor wounded soldiers; but as an invalid herself in her retirement, her great

influence and her pen are employed in the cause of philanthropy, and in ameliorating the condition of the British Soldier. And if ever human being deserved canonization, in the estimation of all our soldiers without exception, Florence Nightingale has merited that honor.

With this exception, as I have said, there is no lady who takes more interest in our soldiers than our good Queen Victoria. Netley Hospital is a favourite place of hers, both on account of its interesting object, and of its having been the proposal of her late beloved consort. She frequently visits it and goes round the wards, conversing with several of the invalids and enquiring into the nature of many of the cases of illness. In my official capacity as Chaplain I have several times accompanied Her Majesty round, along with the other officials of the place, both Military, Medical and Clerical, and it was indeed an interesting and touching sight, to see the Sovereign of England passing round the wards, and taking a womanly interest in her sick and weary suffering soldiers. I was very much interested some time ago, since coming out to this country, in reading an account in the papers of one of those visits of Her Majesty to Netley. She went especially to see the wounded soldiers who had returned from the Ashantee War. On conversing with one brave hero, a Scotch Sergt. Major of the 42nd Highlanders, who told her that he had been wounded in the Indian mutiny, the Abyssinian War, and in the late Ashantee War, Her Majesty was affected to tears, as were also Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice who accompanied her. On her arrival at Osborne her English summer home in the Isle of Wight, which is only about an hour's sail from Netley, she sent the wounded Sergeant Major a copy of the book of which she is the authoress, with her autograph written in it. Such a kindly and sympathetic interest on the part of our Queen has immense influence for good on the hearts of Her soldiers and poor men, they at Netley have much need of all the kindness and sympathy and compassion that can be shown them by all who have access to them; for they have gone through many hardships before reaching that haven of rest. Most of the inmates, after remaining there some time, are either pronounced fit once more for active