

yet all tending to the accomplishment of one ultimate object. The distinction of ranks, strictly speaking, is an appointment of God, wisely designed for drawing forth and cultivating the latent virtues of the heart, and consolidating the framework of society, by reciprocal acts of benevolence and skill. The discipline and efficiency of an army require that these distinctions be strictly observed, and that the duties belonging to each be punctually and promptly performed. Whatever, therefore, be the station which you respectively occupy, strive to know, and to do, your duty,—and to do it in such a way as to show that you are anxious to promote the good of the service. More especially honor every command of those whom Providence hath placed over you,—whether it proceeds from one endeared to you by many acts of personal kindness, or from one who in this respect has no claim upon your regard. It is your duty to obey, in all things lawful, the commands of your superiors; and in the discharge of this duty, you ought to be actuated by public, not by private, motives. Your own happiness, indeed, will, in a great measure, depend upon your respectful obedience. But overlooking this,—overlooking all selfish considerations,—you should regard every lawful command as being dictated by a regard to the public service, and to be complied with, on your part, from a high sense of public duty.