

1451

RED-CROSS KNIGHTS OF THE SALVATION
ARMY.*

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BY "FIDELIS."
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We have all heard much of "Christian England," with its noble cathedrals and abbeys, its rich ecclesiastical heritage, its generations of culture, its Christian lives of gentle and ideal beauty. But we are less familiar with the "Heathen England" growing for generations side by side with it, under the shadow of its many churches. That heathen England is nevertheless very real, very coarse, very brutal, constituting an aggregate of gross ignorance and vice, which is like a mass of seething corruption in the midst of a fair and lovely garden. In this heathen England, the old traditions of Christianity have been utterly lost; the men are debased and brutal, often as cruel as their own bulldogs; the women have a crushed and down-trodden semblance of womanhood, and the children, alas! a wretchedly stunted and morally deformed childhood. The blessedness of home is unknown, and if, as Dickens delighted to show in his pictures of its abnormal life, "some flow'rets of Eden they still inherit," it is no less certain that "the trail of the serpent is over them all." In England there are sharper contrasts than any seen even in America. Between the refined and happy homes of luxury and culture, "sweetness and light,"

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