

OPPOSITE A VACANT LOT.

A boy, who had finished clearing his sidewalk of one of the first snows of the season, turned his attention to a strip which bordered a vacant lot. "Your father doesn't own that land, does he?" asked another boy, who was watching the operation.

The worker shook his head, and a second question came, "Do any of your folks have to go that way?"

"No, they don't," boy number one admitted, pausing in his work for a moment. "But a lot of the girls who work in the factory go this way, and they need a path just as much as my own folks do."

We hope this lad will not be exceptional among our readers. God bless the boys who are ready to do what they can toward helping those not included in the numbers of their "own folks!"

DRILL.

A great battle was going on. Thousands on thousands of soldiers had lain quietly in their entrenchments, thinking themselves secure, when suddenly, and without warning, the enemy came upon them. So fierce and unexpected was the attack that for a time the troops fell back. Some of the men, seeing that they were losing ground, and fearing that they would be killed, wounded or captured, forsook the line of battle, and got out of harm's way as fast as they could. Others were not cowardly enough to run away, but became so excited and confused that they were of little use.

The army consisted of divisions, commanded by major-generals; each division had its brigades commanded by brigadier-generals, and each brigade was made up of regiments commanded by colonels. Each regiment was supposed to contain a thousand men; but most of them were much smaller, for fighting and sickness had reduced their number.

One of the colonels found that his men had become so demoralized that they were aiming and firing at random, and their shots were doing no good. Some of them were so excited that they hardly knew what they were doing. Something must be done at once to steady them and bring them to their senses. So he gave the order to form in line, and then put them through a regular drill, as if they were on parade instead of in the midst of a terrible battle with the enemy's bullets flying all around them. It gave them something to think of beside the danger that they were in, and they soon regained their coolness and steadiness and were ready to do their part in the fight.

Something like this often happens to people who have never been near a battle-field. They are passing through a time of trouble and worry and anxiety, and instead of keeping cool they lose their wits and strike out wildly and

at random. They need to stop thinking about their troubles, and take up, for a while, some plain, simple, every day duty, until they are ready to go into the fight again and shoot straight.

A UNIVERSAL RIGHT.

A young man, who was the owner of an unusually intelligent collie, had taught him a number of amusing tricks. When putting the beautiful creature "through his paces," for the benefit of friends, the master sometimes spoke with a sharp peremptoriness amounting to severity.

One evening, when a party of young people had been entertained by witnessing the dog's intelligent obedience, an older gentleman present uttered a protest against the manner in which the young master had given his orders. "Why do you speak so sharply to Rex?" he asked. "Faithful service deserves a return of courtesy. Beside, I am inclined to think that his feelings are hurt when you are so unnecessarily severe."

Almost to the dismay of those who were present, the dog rose, walked across the room and licked the hand of his defender. It might have been a coincidence, merely, but the dog's owner did



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