

enabled me to comply with his wish to give a Testament to some soldier in the East.

On coming from church last Sabbath I was accosted by an artillery-man—a most regular attendant—who told me he had discovered a shop lately in which were one or two English books, which he had eagerly purchased, as he believed them to be good books. I asked him if he would like more, and he said he did not know where to get them; that he was anxious to have a magazine or periodical regularly sent, but did not know how to order it. I invited him to call at my quarters, and he has been here this evening, and taken with him a few books which I had by me. Seeing that he was unwilling to take the books without making some acknowledgement, I told him that, while I could not take payment for them, as they had been sent as gifts to the army, I would gladly remit for him any small sum which he might be disposed to send to any religious or charitable object he should name, and so he placed the sum of six shillings in my hands, remarking that he would like it sent to some society for the diffusion of Protestant principles, I had the greater pleasure in receiving this sum, because the man told me, on being asked as to the circumstances of his friends, that he had lately sent £5 to his mother, and that his pay easily enabled him to give this contribution without depriving them of any needful comfort. He is one of the few men I have met with in the army who profess to have experienced a change of heart, and so far his conduct is in keeping with his profession.

In the course of visiting to-day found no fewer than twenty-four additional names to add to my list in the General Hospital alone, mostly of men belonging to the Highland Brigade. Among these, for the first time, found one man who not only could speak and read Gaelic, but who preferred a Gaelic book to an English one. Having quite a store of Gaelic prayer books, as well as some Tracts and Testaments, I promised to get him something to read in his mother tongue. Visited B. J. in Barrack Hospital, and some others. This poor lad now in great pain, and could scarcely speak to me.

October 13th.—During this week three of my men have died, a larger number than I have known taken in the same time since I came to Scutari. One of these, B. J., referred to above, was in great pain when I saw him last. Towards night he got calmer, and went off in a quiet sleep late in the evening. The second had been only a few days in hospital here. I had seen him once or twice, but he was too weak to converse much. Both of these deaths were in one ward, only one patient being between the two men, and when I saw him the morning after the second death, the tear was in his eye. He had seen death on the battle field, and it was a terrible sight. But, poor man, he said this was more affecting still. Two young men, each little more than half his age, and occupying the nearest beds to his own, had been taken. Without any of the hurry or excitement of the battle, and with nothing to break in upon the stillness of the midnight hour, death had twice, in three short nights, entered the chamber in which he lay, and left its victim at his side. The third case was in the General Hospital. T. S., the subject, was wasted to a skeleton. Latterly I had seen him nearly every day. As long as he was able to speak he seemed grateful for my visits, but the last two or three days was scarcely conscious of my presence.

October 14th.—Sunday. Preached, as usual,

in the morning to the men on duty, between thirty and forty; in the Palace to six, besides some in bed. In the Barrack to twenty, and in the General Hospital to fourteen or fifteen.

Was shocked, on coming home from my morning duty, to find that the Rev. Mr. Lee, a chaplain residing in the same house with me, had died this morning. He has been little more than a fortnight out from England, and now violent dysentery has cut him off. This is the second chaplain who has died in Scutari since my arrival, and neither had been above a few weeks in the place. Besides these more than one have been invalided home, and a large proportion have had illnesses more or less serious. May that God who has hitherto spared me, and granted me health, give me not only a grateful heart, but a more devoted spirit!

October 15th.—In course of visiting, saw sergeant M. G. He has been a great sufferer from rheumatic pains. I read the 38th Psalm, and prayed with him. He remarked that he had read that and the two following Psalms this morning. I expressed a hope that as that portion which spoke of suffering was applicable to his case, so that portion might be which spoke of trust in God. He confesses himself to have been a great sinner, and as he has had long and painful hours to reflect on his past life, I am in hopes that this bitter experience may be not without its blessed fruits. He traces a great portion of the vicissitude to which he has been subject to the early removal of both parents and to the consequent want, in his case, of parental training. Though brought up by kind friends, who had his best interests at heart, he discovered that they could not exercise parental authority over him, and being headstrong, he went to sea, and though again received into the bosom of the family on his return, once more took his own way, and enlisted. He has been a sad martyr to rheumatism, but a most patient sufferer. Though by no means demonstrative, so much the reverse that I was often at a loss whether to regard his spirit of endurance as iron stoicism, or weak resignation. I still fondly believe, from the absence of all murmuring in his case, from the calm recital, at intervals, between the sharp twinges of pain, of this story reflecting only upon himself and from the kindly manner in which he speaks of friends at home, that he is a true penitent and now experiencing at the hand of a heavenly Parent that discipline which his earthly parents were not spared to exercise. But little do they, who are trained by right-minded, pious parents, think how much they owe to the firm, yet affectionate discipline of the family.

October 20.—The subject of the foregoing remarks has been removed from hospital. I saw him on Thursday morning, and within an hour of the time I left him, his slender frame, wasted to a skeleton, would be carried on a stretcher, borne by four of his fellow-soldiers, to the steam-tender which conveyed the invalids to the "Great Britain" steamship, and, ere now, he will be on the Mediterranean, pursuing his way to his native island of Great Britain. Besides the above, one or two others of my men have left with the same draft for England. One of these was the young Highlander mentioned as visited on the 9th. Since then I had seen him several times. He had been greatly pleased with the promise of a Gaelic book, but it is scarcely possible to describe the appearance of joy which lit up his face when I put into his hands "Leabhar nan Cnoc," or "The Mountain Sketch Book," a compilation by the Rev. Dr. M'Leod. He seemed to recog-

nize it as an old favourite, and it may serve not only to while away an hour, but, it may be, also to fill it up profitably during the voyage as, no doubt, it will be read.

Another young lad, belonging to the Lane Transport Corps, expected to have gone with the same draft, but still lies in hospital. He is familiar with the scene of my former labours at Gourcock, and recognised me as having been present at the annual gathering in the village on New Year's Day.

This week I have discovered that two lads I was visiting in different hospitals are brothers, and have made both happy by informing them that though they left the camp at different dates, they are now so near each other.

October 30.—The attendance at the several services on Sabbath, if not numerous, keeps steady, and, as far as the invalids are concerned, is perhaps about as large as might be expected. In the General Hospital the only Sabbath, thirty-four were present, while the whole number of Presbyterian patients in the hospital must have fallen short of thirty, and of these several were in bed. Last Sabbath an Episcopalian asked me for a Bible, and expressed a desire to have one with the which service in it. I did not exactly comprehend his meaning at first, but found that, as I had quoted in answer from the Shorter Catechism, and illustrated it from the subject of discourse, he wished to have one of those copies with which the Shorter Catechism was bound up.

October 31st.—Before closing these notes for the month, I must not omit referring to a call the other day of M. Babuc, one of the Protestant chaplains to the French army. He brought an introduction to me from Count Szuylen de Neval, the Dutch ambassador at Constantinople, he (M. Babuc) having officiated lately in the Dutch Church there. He told me that six Protestant chaplains had been appointed by a society in France, of whom it was intended to station three in the Crimea and three at Constantinople, in connection with the hospitals in its vicinity. He is himself expecting shortly to proceed to the Crimea, and seemed grateful for a bundle of French tracts, or rather a selection from a bundle left in my charge by Mr. Watson. M. Babuc was born in London, and has relations both in England and France, among the latter of whom he is proud to rank the celebrated Monods. He tells me the cheering fact, that already the Protestant chaplains in Constantinople have met with between 1200 and 1300 avowed Protestants in the French army, and he has no doubt there are many more whom they have not yet seen. Considering the limited number of troops to whom an hospital chaplain has access, the moral courage required to profess a religion so decidedly in the minority, and in particular the difficulties in the army, of the man who dares to be singular, this number is by no means despicable.

Sketch of the Late Rev. Dr. Easton of Kirriemuir.

(From the Dundee Courier.)

Our obituary of last week announced the death of the Rev. Dr. Easton of Kirriemuir. This much esteemed and venerable clergyman was born of highly respectable parents at Kirriemuir, in Stirlingshire, in the year 1778. When he soon afterwards removed to Glasgow, where he attended the University of that city. His contemporaries inform us that he distinguished himself greatly at College, and that he carried off several of the chief academical honours, at a time when much talent existed, and