

We are profoundly thankful that the christianity of our country is so well represented among the Volunteers; that among officers and men, among the foremost in the fight and the most enduring in the hospital and camp, and among those whose lives have been offered up for their country, there are not wanting the names that are so well-known to us on our church-rolls, in the Sabbath-school, and in the prayer-meeting; and that there is thus proved in our experience, what the lives of Christian soldiers in every age have shewn, that religion, for all its innocence and gentleness, does not take away, but develops, all that makes the man and the hero.

Yet must we also learn the lesson, to trust in God above all. "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." In a case like this, it is easy to see how prayer availeth much; for here we have to do not so much with matter and with physical law, as with mind,—with minds to which the Divine mind has as free and constant access as the atmosphere has to the earth. God's Spirit can turn the counsel of our enemies into foolishness, can divide their tongues, and strike terror into their hearts; and He can endue the leaders and the multitude of those who stand and strike for the defence of their own homes and altars, with such skill and courage as that one shall chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight. We have seen enough, in our recent short experience, to make us distrust the wisdom of man. Let us humbly place ourselves under the protection of God, who careth for this land. Let us confess before Him our own iniquities, and the iniquities of our fathers, for they be many and great,—many and great enough to deserve a worse chastisement than we have received from those whose "wrath He makes to praise Him," who are "the staff in His hand." And let us learn to "rest in the Lord" with some measure of that infinite calm with which he himself reposes upon the unerring wisdom of His own counsels, the strength of His Almighty hand, and the certainty of His eternal decrees!

BETTERMENTS.

Some of Her Majesty's subjects, we forget in what part of her dominions, call improvements made in houses or lands by the significant name quoted above. We purpose making some changes in the Magazine this year which we hope may deserve the same title. A word or two in explanation thereof.

1. In accordance with the suggestions of many friends, we purpose to provide more specifically for the reading necessities of "the mothers with the children." We are conscious that our columns have been occupied too largely with ecclesiastical business; but this has been inevitable. Now that we have a little more space, we shall gladly devote some of it to the family. We therefore open this month "THE HOME DEPARTMENT," where, in a prominent position and in legible type, the old folks and young folks at home will find something