

For, verily, this is a land of many dangers, and full of pitfalls for the unwary.

So hearken well and pay tribute unto the Great Rulers, with their tokens of Red and their halos of Gold.

For, verily, they are the Chosen of the many, and their words are as law unto thee.

Mark well the sayings of thy Colonel, thy Adjutant, thy Captain, thy Sergeant-Major, thy Sergeant, yea, even unto the sayings of thy Corporal.

For thou art but a soldier, while they do know many things, and are learned in the customs of war.

Verily it shall come to pass that thy Colonel shall command thy Adjutant that a certain task shall be done. Thy Adjutant shall make known to thy Captain the wishes of thy Colonel. Thy Captain shall converse with thy Sergeant-Major concerning this ; thy Sergeant-Major shall call thy Sergeant, who will speak unto thy Corporal.

And verily, it shall come to pass that thy Corporal will say unto thee : "Thy Colonel desireth that this task shall be done forthwith. Go thou, therefore, and do this thing."

Then, my son, thou shalt obey the commands of thy leaders so that their wrath may not fall upon thee.

For woe unto him who obeys not their commands ; many shall be his troubles, and few his joys.

Yet, weep not, my son, but be of good cheer even if many bags require to be filled.

For, verily, verily, when thy task is done, the Sergeant-Major shall call thee into his dwelling in the ground, and shall say unto thee these words : "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

And from a vessel of earthenware, which he carrieth after the manner of a mother her first-born, shall he pour for thee a small portion thereof.

For it is well that a soldier have good spirits within him ; then thou shalt feel content with thy lot.

Nevertheless, do not look with contempt upon Fritz across the way. For he hath an eye like unto the eagle, and will ding thee in the dome, and think nought of it.

Be thou like unto the creeping things of the earth ; yea, even like unto the serpent that moveth on its belly.

Be not like unto the gopher of thine own country, which hath an abundance of curiosity, and loveth to sit upon his hind legs.

Therefore, I say unto thee, my son, be not curious of the things in front of thy parapet ; but keep thy head down so that thou shalt not be cut off in the flower of thy manhood.

For what shall it profit a man if he enter into the deepest shell-hole and hath not any cover for his head?

Go now, my son, to thy many duties. Be of good cheer.

*The Brazier.*