

## WHY I LEFT THE ARMY.

Brother, when you first met me, an entire stranger, as I supposed, I had no thought at the time, that you were to be the representative of a *religious friendship* I was to find among the soldiers of the salvation army; but you have been a true specimen of their friendship; and I have no other way of letting you know how deeply I feel, and deeply I remember, all you have done to render their acquaintance to me, one of the most remarkable of the religious periods of my life, except thus to make my graceful acknowledgements in parting company with a few words familiar to most Christians, but difficult, if not almost impossible to be expressed with feelings perfectly balanced.

There cannot, says a great writer, a greater judgment befall a community than such a dreadful spirit of dissension and division as rends the citizens into a variety of parties and makes them religiously greater strangers than if they were of different nations. The effects are pernicious to the last degree; not only as regards the advantage they give the common enemy, but the private evils they produce in the heart of every particular person. This influence is fatal to men's morals and understandings; it sinks the virtue of the community; it destroys even common sense.

These observations, had they been written at the present day, instead of some two centuries ago, could not have applied with greater truth than they do at the present moment to the situation in many localities, towns, and villages of this land, torn and divided as they are by religious extremists—men who have so long convulsed the moral machine of the country and society, and who appear of late to have “sprung” a new party, guided by an invisible hand, whose will is absolute despotism, and