

we are striving here for God and Christ, that we are one of a Mighty Host, not of a forlorn hope ; and there is joy inexpressible in the thought, that after the battle, the victory, comes rest and "peace with honour," and that such rest and peace will be as real for us real people as the strife and battle around us here. And happiest of all the thought, that whilst the bodies of our blessed dead may rest in sleep, they themselves are not sleeping but with Christ in Paradise—living sentient souls, clothed as God would have them clothed, waiting for the resurrection. Their's now the Joy that ours will be if only faithful we follow in their steps ; if only loyal, we fall not out of the great advancing host ; if only brave, and steadfast we grasp the unsheathed sword to the last, Sleep—well may the tired body sleep ; till the great call comes, and the dead in Christ shall rise, sleep till the last rank of the last Company of the army of the living God shall have crossed the river, and so shall we be "for ever with the Lord." In this strong hope we commit the body to the grave,

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust ;
Calmly now the words we say ;
Left behind, we wait in trust
For the resurrection day.
Father in Thy Gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping."

But the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

And so at last as our text teaches, the Great Army shall cease to move onward in marching order, but shall stand before God ; gathered together in one in Christ ; all the Saints, the great harvest of the fruit of the Cross :—the redeemed of all ages that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.