

AN INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

The following pathetic account is from a sermon by Rev. P. B. David, published in the *Norfolk County Gazette*:

It was just after the battle of Williamsburg, where hundreds of brave fellows had fallen, and where hundreds more were wounded, that a soldier came to the tent of a delegate of the Christian Commission and said:

"Chaplain, one of our boys is badly wounded, and wants to see you right a-way."

Hurriedly following the soldier, says the delegate. I was taken to the tent of a delegate, I was taken to the hospital and led to a bed upon which lay a noble young soldier. He was pale and blood-stained from a terrible wound above the temple. I saw at a glance that he had but a few hours to live upon earth. Taking his hand I said to him:

"Well, my brother, what can I do for you."

The poor soldier looked up in my face, and placing his finger where his hair was stained with blood said:

"Chaplain, cut a big lock from here for mother—for mother, mind, chaplain!" I hesitated to do it. He said:

"Don't be afraid, chaplain, to disfigure my hair. It's for mother, and nobody will come to see me in the dead-house to-morrow."

I did as he requested me.

"Now, chaplain said the dying man, "I want you to kneel down by me and return thanks to God."

"For what?" I asked.

"For giving me such a mother. O, chaplain, she is a good mother; her teachings console and comfort me now. And chaplain thank God that by His grace I am a christian. O! what would I do now if I wasn't a christian? I know that my Redeemer liveth. I feel that His finished work has saved me.

PERSONALITIES AND ILL-REPORT.

Keep clear of personalities in general conversation. Talk of things, objects, thoughts. The smallest minds occupy themselves with persons. Personalities must sometimes be talked, because we have to learn and find out men's characteristics, for legitimate objects; but it is to be with confidential persons. Poor Burns wrote and did many foolish things.

but he was wise when he wrote to a young friend:

"Aye, tell your story free, off-hand,
When wi' a bosom crony;
But still keep something to yourself'
You'll scarcely tell to ony."

Do not needlessly report ill of others, There are times when we are compelled to say:

"I do not think Bouncer a true and honest man."

But when there is no need to express an opinion let poor Bouncer swagger away. Others will take his measure, no doubt, and save you the trouble of analyzing him and instructing them. And as far as possible dwell on the good side of human beings. There are family-boards where a constant process of depreciating, assigning motives, and cutting up of character goes forward. They are not pleasant places. One who is healthy does not wish to dine at a dissecting table. There is evil enough in men, God knows. But it is not the mission of every young man and woman to detail and report it all. Keep the atmosphere as pure as possible, and fragrant with gentleness and charity.
—*Dr. John Hall.*

PRECEPT AND PRACTICE.

A good story is told of an excellent American minister who, happening one day to pass by the open door of a room where his daughters and some young friends were assembled, thought, from what he overheard, that they were making too free with the character of their neighbors; and after their visitors had departed he gave his children a lecture on the sinfulness of scandal.

"But, father, what shall we talk about?"

"If you can't do any thing else," replied he, "get a pumpkin and roll it about; that will, at least 'be innocent diversions."

A short time after, an association of ministers met at his house, and during the evening some discussions on points of doctrine were earnest, and their voices were so loud as to indicate the danger of losing their Christian temper; when his eldest daughter, overhearing them, procured a pumpkin, and entering the room gave it to her father and said:

"There, father, roll it about."

The minister was obliged to explain to his brethren, and good humour was instantly restored.