

makes an unsatisfactory excuse, and sometimes whether an excuse is made or not, he will be heard to say:—

“Orderly sergeant of No. 1” (or 2 or 3, as the case may be) “give this man an extra guard.”

While the men who are not clean or neat enough to satisfy the Adjutant are treated in this manner, there is another inducement to be clean, for the cleanest man on the ground is selected by the Adjutant as the Orderly for the day, thus furnishing a positive as well as a negative reason for taking pains to be clean, but as this is the object of many, and only one can be chosen Orderly, there are a good many clean men go on as sentries. The duties of the Adjutant's orderly are to attend at the orderly room, and carry any messages that may be sent from that office; in the evening he is allowed to do as he pleases, and he spends the night in bed, while his comrades, who mounted guard at the same time, are on duty the full twenty-four hours, both night and day.

I remember reading, a few years ago, an article in *Chamber's Journal* in regard to military life, much of which was very true, but it is my opinion that the writer of the article never was a private soldier, for in speaking of doing duty as a sentry, or “sentry go,” as it is commonly called among soldiers, he says,—“this duty, so far from being disliked, is rather enjoyed by the steady soldier, as it gives him an opportunity for quiet reflection,” &c. Now having had some experience in the matter, and having had opportunities of learning the opinions of many others I have no hesitation in saying that there are very few, if any, who enjoy it at all, and in fact I have never met one who did like the duty. If the author of the article in question had ever done “sentry go,” with the thermometer ranging between 30° and 45° below zero, or under a burning sun with the mercury at 100° in the shade, perhaps he would have thought somewhat differently on the subject; not only this, but the “quiet reflection,” is a good deal of a myth