

yet advance was not made, and the result of delay was disastrous. Here were soldiers roused to activity by the fight with anti-christian Rome. They had gained light regarding duty. There were no hindrances, for political persecutions were ended. Ought they not to have bethought themselves of the commission of their Lord? Surely they should have advanced to conquer the realms of Paganism for Christ. And yet most of them cast down the weapons of their warfare and camped where they were to enjoy conquests already won. And the result was the same as before. The activities aroused could not but operate, and since there was no fighting abroad, there was quarreling in the camp. Immediately arose schisms, heresies, dissents. The army was rent by discord and controversy. The energy which should have been spent in conquest was wasted in internal broils and disputes; and by these disputes they thought they were doing the work of the Lord—whereas it was being done by an elect few who had gone to the peoples whom they neglected, and among them were living Christ-like lives of helpfulness and love.

What is the condition of the army now? Still in camp. Disputes between regiments in the same service occupy more thought than the great work. Officers are wearied and burdened by the domestic strife. The labour of earnest souls is counteracted by the slanderer, whose tongue certainly ought to be "burned with coals of juniper." The strength which should be spent in successful campaigning is wasted in quarrels and the trifling amusements of camp. Were the great Leader to come and inspect the stores He would find wealth laid up by owners to their own hurt. Instead of sending the grain out to feed those soldiers who are fighting, it is laid up in great storehouses and mildew has spoiled it. Listen to the excuses urged! Some object to sending it even to soldiers starving for need of it because the transport officers must be fed out of it. Two soldiers will have to be fed while they bear the food to ninety-eight; and that is such dreadful waste, they are willing to have the ninety-eight starve rather than allow it. Others are assured that there is no need for advance. The heathen, say they, are well enough off. They could know, if they chose, what happens under the tyranny of the great Adversary, what deeds of blood and violence are done, what life-long misery is endured; and, in comparison, what