

was somewhat about the whole action and personality of this man, his quaint manner of expression, and the simple earnestness of his petition, covering, as it did, all the wants and needs of the rude household so as to sanctify them, and with so kindly a wisdom and thoughtfulness running through it all, that the young soldier was surprised to find himself entering into the spirit of this primitive service and realizing, for the first time, a domestic and everyday character in religion which was new to him.

When it was ended, having been punctuated by fervent "amens" from the woman, he found himself somewhat sobered in mood, and less inclined to converse as he resumed his meal.

But if he was so disposed, not so was the preacher, by either instinct or inclination. He was in the wilderness, not only to instil religion, but also to comfort and solace; and this he proceeded to do while he ate, directing his conversation now to the woman and anon to her husband, who had come in during the prayer; and it was not long before the whole place was radiating with the cheerfulness and quaint humor which he seemed to bring with him.

He appeared to know all the people in the remote locality, their joys and their sorrows, and he carried, besides, a stock of news and information which made him welcome everywhere, though occasionally his religious ministrations were not.

The presence of the young officer, however, on this occasion placed a certain restraint on the conversation, and the man and woman retired with some of the chil-