

suffered in vain. No one but those who have cared for them, will ever know how patiently and uncomplainingly they have borne the agony of their wounds. The men who have thus learned to forget themselves for the sake of others, are in that measure, whether they are conscious of it or not, walking in the footsteps of the highest and holiest Manhood the earth has ever known.

V. The Religion of Reality

These young men are coming back to us by hundreds and thousands. There is no use stating exact numbers, for the numbers change every week with fresh ship-loads landed on our shores. They have given their splendid strength, the perfection of their physical manhood for their country. Most of them are broken men, no longer fit for active service, no longer capable of doing the work they did before they went away. What message have we for them?

The first thing is to help them to get re-established in the way of making a livelihood. The Dominion and Provincial Governments have inaugurated excellent schemes for aiding returned soldiers, and especially for training in new trades those whose wounds have incapacitated them from following their former occupations. Many returned soldiers will need information, advice, encouragement to take advantage of what the authorities have provided, and to persist in their efforts until they are in a position to make a good living for themselves in spite of their disabilities. Then it will be necessary in many cases to help them to find situations which they can satisfactorily fill.

Above all, whether the men are still at the front, or invalided to England, or returned to Canada as unfit for further service, we must see that their families lack nothing while they are unable to give them care. In response to a letter on this subject sent to chaplains at the front, a number of them consulted together, and one writes:—"They emphatically agreed that whatever might be done for soldiers on their return home, the Church had her chance now to care for the soldiers' families." This might not mean financial help. The state is providing fairly well for that. It does mean kindly interest, friendship, and loving sympathy. There is nothing which so eats into the soul of a soldier as the thought that while he is fighting for his country, his family is suffering for the lack of a friend. The Church can supply this need.

This is the practical gratitude we owe them. This is the practical Christianity which will appeal to them. They know what duty, service and self-sacrifice mean. They know their