

perils his life in defence of his country and her institutions. He merits, and he will receive, the applause of his grateful countrymen. And if, in the discharge of his military duties, his conduct be distinguished for piety and humanity, as well as intrepid valour, his name will go down in the streams of history, honored and renowned. His individuality may be lost, in the multitude of the brave,—he may not be singled out from among his compatriots for the proclamation of fame, and his honor may be bound up and undiscriminated in the mass of heroic achievements ;—but the generous, the patriotic man, will exult that he was one of the many, whose invincible courage preserved the freedom of his country, and procured the most substantial blessings for all classes of the community.

The duties which, as citizens and soldiers, we owe to our country, are not merely conventional regulations, designed to maintain and promote the happiness of society. They are enjoined by God, not directly, it is true, but legitimately inferred from the great and acknowledged principles of the Divine Government. The clear and obvious tendency of these principles, is to us, in our probationary state, as distinctly the voice of God, as if we heard him saying unto us, “ This is the way : walk ye in it.” Now, this divine sanction we may fairly claim for those duties that exclusively belong to us, as temporary inhabitants of this