

if he require some to remain inactive, to engage in mere routine duty, unnoticed, unrewarded, throughout the whole of it—is obedience at home less important than obedience in the field? The soldier has no responsibility beyond his orders; he has not to decide where he shall be employed, or how; he fights for the cause by prompt obedience to the orders of the day.

But what orders have gone forth? One clear command has been sounding in the ears of the Church for centuries—Advance. The early Church obeyed orders: it was rightly termed apostolic, for every soldier of the Lord felt responsible for obedience to the divine commission which appointed him an evangelist to the whole world. They were inspired with zeal to make conquest of the world for Christ, and they did not imagine that these orders could be obeyed by going into camp in a certain city, district, or country and remaining there. Their enthusiasm had such result that,

“Their sound went forth into all the earth,
And their words unto the ends of the inhabited earth.”

A time came, however, when the army began to think more of past conquests than of those yet to be made. The soldiers settled themselves comfortably down in fortified positions already gained. And thus dark ages began, marked by internal discord and strife. The energy which should have been put forth in conquest and manlike warfare in the field was occupied in effeminate quarrels; and the army was thrown into confusion by controversy, or the time of the soldiers wasted by empty parades and useless ceremonies.

In this time of need heroic leaders arose. The Reformers woke the Church from its slumber, called upon the soldiers to leave the entrenchments of false beliefs and urged them to fight for the release of men from the captivity of Rome. It was a period of conflict with the powers of darkness, there was warfare and progress. A band of brave men were rescued from those false leaders who had been keeping them back from the great work of witnessing for Christ. Out of bondage worse than Egyptian they had come. Their former leaders had fettered their conscience, had hindered them from perusal of the Commander's order book; in fact had misrepresented to them both the Commander and His work. And now with newly-awakened zeal they were in grand condition to go forward and fight for Him;