

neutralizes the harm done by such appeals to the lower nature.

The occasional grotesqueness of prayers and hymns, in which any one may make impromptu variations at pleasure, is, perhaps, scarcely to be dissociated from the thorough freedom, which is one of the Army's great attractions for the undisciplined natures it seeks. But certainly it would be no little descent from the reverent humility of attitude which the Christian Church has cultivated for so many centuries were she to encourage the *tone* of prayer, however sincere, frequently used in the Army's meetings ; as for example : " I say, Lord, make us all like you ; nothing in ourselves, but mighty in your strength." And to ears accustomed to the sweet and solemn strains of the hymns which have expressed the deepest feelings of so many generations of Christians, such a " jolly " chorus and air as—

" We've found a wonderful Saviour,  
Which nobody can deny !"

cannot but seem a lamentable descent. Better that all our secular literature were vitiated, and our poetry degraded, by the coarseness and vulgarity of a " slangy " age and class, than that these should befoul and clog the wings of the one pure and holy influence vouchsafed to our fallen humanity to lift it up to God Himself !

The cure of such a tendency must be sought, however, not in the " Army " so much as in the Christian Church. Christ told the unbelieving Jews, that in the event of their rejection, God was able even of the stones to raise up children unto Abraham. But from