

As many as **RECIVED** Him, to them gave He power to become the **SONS OF GOD.**—John i. 12.

FORGIVEN!



IN the garri-son town of Wool-wich, a few years ago, a soldier was about to be brought before the commanding officer of his regiment, for some misdemean-our. The officer entering the soldier's name said, "Here he is again; what *can* we do with him? He has gone through almost every ordeal."

The sergeant major, M.B., apologized for intruding, and said, "there is one thing which has never been done with him yet, sir"

"What is that, sergeant-major?"

"Well, sir, he has never yet been *for-given.*"

"**FORGIVEN!**" said the colonel. "Here is his case entered."

"Yes, but the man is not before you, and you can cancel it."

After the col-nel had reflected for a few minutes, he ordered the man to be brought in, when he asked what he had to say relative to the charges brought against him. "Nothing, sir," was the

reply, "only that I am sorry for what I have done."

After making some suitable remarks, the colonel said, "Well, we have re-solved to forgive you." The soldier was struck with astonishment, the tears started from his eyes—he wept. He thanked the colonel for his kindness, and retired. The narrator had the soldier under his notice for two years and a-half after this, and never during that time was there a charge brought against him, or fault found with him. Mercy triumphed! Kindness conquered! The man was won!

This is just the method God adopts with us in the everlasting Gospel. We are guilty. The charges are brought against us. The case is entered. But the Lord delighteth in mercy. He seeks to melt us by his love. He is ready to forgive. He sends to us, saying, "Only acknowledge thine iniquities;" and then offers us a pardon—a pardon which cost Him the life of His only begotten Son—a pardon, not of one sin, but of all our sins—a pardon that will bring peace to the conscience on earth, and entitle us to eternal rest in heaven.

What would you have said, if the soldier referred to had insulted his colonel, when he told him that he had made up his mind to forgive him; and had told him he did not want his pardon, or that he did not believe him. Yet if you refuse, or neglect to humble yourself before God, and accept the pardon offered in His Word, you are acting just such a part before God. Oh, the folly, consummate folly, of the man who trifles with eternal punishment—who rejects the Saviour of sinners—who refuses to come to God by Him, that he may be pardoned, sanctified and saved!

EVANGELISTIC BIBLE CLASS

Held every Sunday Afternoon,

AT 3 O'CLOCK.

All Welcome.

LOOK unto Me, and be ye SAVED.

Isaiah xlv. 22.