

the Saviour able to save to the uttermost, whom those that believe on shall not perish, but have everlasting life—that he rests implicitly upon salvation by grace, and *rejoices* in it. Again, a minister, as he goes from bed to bed here, has varied little starting points from which to commence to preach the truth. Paul had, at Athens, the inscription, "To the unknown God." You have the narratives of the soldiers themselves, uttered frequently with much feeling. One tells you of Sir Colin Campbell at Alma, how he rushed off from a distinguished personage who was commiserating the probable fate of the Highlanders when they were about to advance on those terrible heights bristling with cannon, to put himself at their head, saying—"Well, if they perish, I'll be among the first!" tells you of the devotion and the heroism of the fine old Scotchman. When the soldier's bosom swells with admiration of his leader, as he recounts his exploits, there is an opportunity, when still emotion leaves, when the man is yet in an admiring mood, of telling of that Captain—the Captain of the Christian salvation—who fought and conquered when of the people there was none with him, who faltered not in his combat with the powers of darkness when all forsook him and fled. Another, when you visit him for the first time, pours forth the following, in which fact, feeling, and comment all mingle in rich confusion. "My Bible, Sir, has always been by my companion. I have never let it go, through the whole campaign."

To give you another specimen of the way in which the minister can introduce eternal considerations to the sick man. You visit, early in the morning, a Highlander, who is left in a very precarious state by fever. You ask him, how he feels. He has just awakened from sleep, and has been dreaming. He replies, "I have been dreaming, sir. I thought, sir, I was hunting the deer through the Highlands. I had a fine hunt, and never new but it was all true till they began to open up the blinds there." How the brow expanded, the eye kindled, and emotion spoke in a fervent voice, as thus he talked of the manly sport of his youth, which, with the pure breeze of his native mountains, nursed that strength and pliancy of limb which climbed Alma in the face of lead and steel! But not more quickly does the flitting cloud blot out the glory with which an April sun has, for a moment, arrayed the landscape, then did he regret that the dream was not really sweep from the features all traces of joy; a sadness tremulously settled down. A bitter thing, indeed, it is to fancy yourself in possession of exquisite enjoyment, and to awake to find yourself the inmate of an abode consecrated to sighs and to-sings, to sleepless nights and wearisome days. Here was an opportunity of dwelling on the bliss of heaven, where happiness shall not be a dream—where man shall not awake from imagined delights to real misery—where man shall not dream of vigour and activity, and soon discover, in waking reality, a weak, prostrate, helpless invalid.

It is comfortable to be able to tell you that, up to the present, I have only met one Presbyterian who could not read. How important are Sabbath-schools! Many who now read, never would have read but for them. How inadequate to his task would the minister be, in large hospitals, if the sick could not read, if he could not call the tract and the good book to his aid! The Assembly's Shorter Catechism, of which I brought out a considerable number with me, I believe, is much prized. The parcel just arrived, contains, I am happy to find, some more of the same little books. A box of small bibles—as small as possible for carrying in the soldiers' knapsacks—with a Presbyterian version of the Psalms, would be most desirable. Most of the soldiers lost their Bibles in the campaign. It would be highly desirable that every man, whether he be sent home invalided, or return again to the seat of war, should bear a Bible away with him from our hospitals. I have had

some dozens of the Scotch metrical versions of the Psalms bound up separately in very small bibles. It is excellent where the soldiers may have a pocket Bible without the Psalms in metre.—*H. & F. Record.*

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